THE HINDOO PATRIOT

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THE WEEK.

MONDAY, 13TH MARCH.

SKATING-RINKS, as the asphalt floors are called, seem to be the mania in London. There is the West-End Society Rink, with its subscription list, vouchers, and consequent privacy, and there is your East-End rink, with its rough element, while between these two exist middle-class rinks of every degree. Rinking and rinkualism are common words, and now, by way of culmination, it is proposed to have a Skating-rink Company, Limited. The mania seems to have extended to Calcutta, but as an experienced English writer says, to glide on good skates over glassy ice is invigorating, nerve-tingling, and glorious in the crisp wintry air. Falls are rare, and as a rule harmless, upon the elastic ice, along which the tumbler slips along without much hurt. Wobbling on wheels is quite another thing: it is laborious, slow, and dangerous, and some of the accidents upon the hard asphalt are very terrible—broken legs, broken arms, injured spines, paralysis, faces disfigured, teeth knocked out, and concussion of the brain. Beware! ye lovers of the skating rink in the Zoo!

HOW CHARITY is abused. Baroness Burdett Coutts offered a number of drinking fountains in London, and a writer says that they are monopolized by the children for the purpose of squirting, dabbling, and messing generally, as they muddy the neighbourhood. The same writer says that the Columbia market, that costly, cathedral-like pile, with its small stonework and iron railings, is being broken down by the Shoreditch roughs. The dirty and dirt-loving inhabitants were expected to go and buy their provender in marble halls off marble slabs, and grow refined as they became habituated to the place, where arrangements were made for them to take tea and sit amongst flowers and shrubs. But it was like giving a cat or dog food on a silver plate; the first thing Puss or Fido does is to drag the food off the plate on to the floor. The Bethnal-greeners preferred buying their food dirtily off dirty coster-mongers' barrows, and the market has failed. So dirt-loving people are the same everywhere, whether in London or in Calcutta.

A LONDON CONTEMPORARY says that the Penny Readings were at one time the rage in England, but the American institution called the Spelling Bee has become the fashion. About the first generally known in England of the spelling competition was recorded in a book called "The Hoosier Schoolmaster," published in 1872. One chapter headed "Spelling down the master," is very humorous, and capitally describes the proceedings in the far off country-places in the United States. Since then the "Bee" has flitted across the Atlantic, pioneer fashion, to be followed shortly by a perfect swarm, and now the buz of spelling competition is to be heard nightly in nearly every hall, mechanics' institute and assembly-room throughout the length and breadth of the land.

SOME PEOPLE ridiculed the *Patriot's* idea of a uniform silver currency for England and British India. Hear what America is going to do. She proposes altering her "Almighty Dollar," which is about four shillings and two pence in value, to four shillings, so as to assimilate it to the English coinage, and have it double the florin. This will save the Americans two pence on every dollar.

WE TAKE from the *Anglo-Indian Commercial Advertizer* the following interesting paras:

CEMENT TO FASTEN WOOD TO STONE.—Melt together 4 parts by weight of pitch and 1 of wax; add 4 parts of brick-dust or chalk. It is to be warmed for use, and applied thinly to the surface to be joined. Another very useful cement, which hardens very quickly, is formed with litharge and glycerine. It may be used for water and steam pipes, as well as for lining cisterns for petroleum.

WHITE CEMENT.—A good cement for marble can be made as follows:—Take 8 parts of yellow resin and 1 of wax, to which, when well melted together, add 4 parts of plaster of Paris. This is used while hot, and not apply a thin coating.

WATERPROOF GLUE.—Boil 8 parts of common glue with about 30 parts of water, until a strong solution is obtained, add 4½ parts of boiled linseed-oil, and let the mixture boil two or three minutes, stirring it constantly. Parts by weight to be taken.

WATERPROOF PAPER. A nice article, transparent and impervious to grease, is obtained by soaking good paper in an aqueous solution of shellac in borax. It resembles parchment paper in some respects. If the aqueous solution is coloured with aneline colours, very handsome papers for wrapping fancy goods and making wax flowers may be made.

TO CLEAN SILVER.—Those who wash their silver-ware with soap and water, as the common practice is do not know what they are about, or they would not do it, for it is soap and water that gives it a pewter-like appearance. Not a particle of soap should touch silver-ware, if it is desired to retain its original lustre. When silver goods require polishing, plate powder, or even whiting, rubbed in hard with a piece of soft leather, is far better, and will make the metal look as good as new.

WHITE horn buttons may be made to imitate mother-of pearl by being boiled in a saturated solution of sugar of lead, and then laid in very diluted spirits of salts.

IN THE West Indies there grows a tree whose fruit is used instead of soap. The fruit is about the size of a cherry, and the pulp contains the saponaceous principle. It is much stronger than ordinary soap, and is apt to injure linen if used frequently and freely. This tree belongs to the natural order *Sapindaceæ*, and the same property is found in other species of the same family. The bark of a tree growing in Chili and Peru is used as a substitute for soap. In some of the South Sea Islands a saponaceous vine is found. The seeds of the common horse-chestnut possess a little of this property, as well as the leaves and roots of the common wild flower known as Bouncing Bet or Soap wort.

TUESDAY, 14TH MARCH.

THOSE who complain of waste of money in feeding the ruined Royalties of India will do well all to mind the cost to England of maintaining Napolean Bonaparte at St. Helena. We read that Bonaparte's steward "was in receipt of one thousand pounds monthly for the expenses of the exEmperor and his household; it was the same sum that was allowed to the governor of the island. Every fortnight eighty-four bottles of ordinary wine was supplied for his majesty's table, with two hundred and sixty-six bottles of strong wine—namely, seven of Constantia, fourteen of champagne, twenty-one of Grane, eighty-four of Teneriffe, and one hundred and forty of Bordeaux. His household consisted of nine persons, besides children. Every fortnight forty-two bottles of porter was allowed." The detention of Napoleon during the six years he passed at St. Helena cost England two millions sterling.

THE GENERAL RESULT of the revision of land settlement in the North Western Provinces up to 31st May 1874 is as follows:

DISTRICT.	Former land revenue, less cesses.	Revised land revenue, less cesses.	DIFFERENCE. Increase.	DIFFERENCE. Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Dehra Doon ...	4,020	5,797	1,777	3,255
Saharanpore ...	110,068	116,554	9,740	3,416
Muzaffarnagar ..	114,008	121,530	10,939	17
Meerut ...	182,614	218,467	35,871	101
Bulandshahr ...	111,368	125,166	13,898	...
Aligarh ...	184,857	214,679	29,822	...
Kumaun ..	13,203	24,570	11,380	..
Garhwal ...	6,927	9,631	2,704	6,496
Bijnor ..	118,202	117,890	6,184	..
Moradabad ..	20,195	26,028	5,834	...
Budaun ...	92,822	102,944	10,122	136
Bareilly ...	168,968	207,472	39,640	4
Shahjahanpore ..	97,536	118,444	20,913	...
Muttra ...	28,681	31,653	2,972	...
Farukhabad ...	112,546	124,673	12,127	...
Agra ...	30,412	37,318	6,906	...
Mainpuri ...	112,105	127,626	15,521	...
Etawah ...	119,128	132,661	13,533	...
Etah ...	73,246	93,923	20,978	302
Jalaun ...	85,912	88,336	3,745	1,322
Jhansi ...	55,682	45,905	...	9,775
Lalitpore ...	15,276	13,399	...	1,877
Cawnpore ...	150,578	151,537	4,021	3,061
Futehpore ...	57,758	54,004	...	3,754
Allahabad ..	125,752	157,265	32,677	1,165
Gorakhpore and Basti	208,260	283,418	75,158	...
Azamgarh ...	129,969	171,161	41,191	...

It will be seen from the above that the increase of assessment is steadily progressing.

THE AMERICAN HOUSE of Representatives by 144 votes against 106 has rejected the proposal to render the President of the United States ineligible for a second term of office.

THE PUNJAB INTELLIGENCER thus protests against the conversion of landlords into "informers of bad characters":

The Policy, which dictates this measure, is not altogether sound and honest. It tends to widen the scope of malignity and vengeance, and realizes the principle of setting thieves to catch thieves. Although the landlords are better judges of the characters of their respective as tenants, yet their hearsay-knowledge cannot be accepted as legal evidences, nor the suspicious information can effectually reclaim the people from their criminal proclivities."

We entirely concur.

WE ARE REQUESTED to reprint the following letter from the *Punjab Intelligencer*:

With reference to the article, which appeared sometime ago in the *Indian Daily News* on the subject of abolition of the Pay Establishment at Allahabad, and noticed by the Pioneer in its issue of the 21st January, I think. Mr. Editor, our Government should know that the Allahabad Office pays Central Oude, and North Western Provinces, and a large number of Native Pensioners which, if I am informed aright, exceeds by thousands the number paid by the other 2 Offices—viz Presidency and Rawul Pindee and besides this, placed as it is at Allahabad, which boasts of a net work of Railways, the Allahabad Office yields palm to none in point of usefulness and importance, and the Military Officers alone, who land at Bombay for the first time and are shunted down breathless to their destinations acknowledge the usefulness and importance of the Office in question.

BABU RAJENDRA MULLICK, RAI BAHADUR, was the first native gentleman to offer his assistance towards the establishment of the Zoological Gardens; and the Committee have accordingly decided to call after him the pheasant house, which was the first structure entirely completed.

WEDNESDAY, 15TH MARCH.

A CORRESPONDENT of the *Jam-i-Jam-shed* is scandalized by the fact that Parsee women now-a-days frequent theatres unaccompanied by their husbands or relatives, and remain there till late in the night. He also thinks it highly objectionable that ladies of this community should mix so freely as they do with the crowds assembled in the Victoria Gardens on band nights and in the company of *chaperones* of the opposite sex.

IT WAS RUMOURED in Mauritius when the last mail left, that the present Governor, Sir Arthur Phayre, would shortly succeed Sir Philip Wodehouse as Governor of Bombay, and that Sir Arthur Kennedy, the Governor of Hong-Kong, who is now in England, would be appointed to Mauritius. Sir Arthur Phayre is not a strong man.

HIS MAJESTY the King of Burmah intends to construct a railway from Nynjan to Mandalay and Bhamo. The line selected is one in which very few engineering difficulties exist. The contract for the work has been given to an Italian firm, who have undertaken to complete it within three years.

A FRENCH Engineer has projected a grand canal in the south of France, to unite the Mediterranean to the Bay of Biscay. He proposes that it should be cut from Pauillac to La Nouvelle, and that it should be made of the depth of ten metres, and of sufficient width to admit vessels of the largest size, and without locks or weirs. He shows that, on the whole, the country is favourable for the construction of such a work.

THREE OLD INDIAN officials, viz., Sir George Campbell, Sir H. J. S. Maine and Mr. FitzJames Stephen have been asked to serve upon the Royal Commission which Mr. Disraeli has determined to issue on the Fugitive Slave Question.

ONE RESULT of the Berne Postal Conference is that the postal rates to and from India will be reduced. It is stated that the single postal rate to and from India is, after 1st July next, to be reduced from 9*d.* to 6*d.* by Southampton, and from 1*s.* to 8*d.* by Brindisi. The newspaper postage ought also to be reduced.

THE LONDON CORRESPONDENT of the *India Daily News* has the following notice of that naughty book Edward VI:

"I have been reading during the last day or two "Edward the VII" by the authors of the "Coming K——" the "Silsid" and "Jon Duan." This is the book about which the *World* last week wrought itself into a state of virtuous indignation on the ground of its "disloyalty." The book strikes me, however, as being very fairly written, and the characters in it, to wit, Humphburgh (the Duke of Edinburgh) Kamdase (the Duke of Cambridge) Prince Pagna (Prince Christian) Lord Forlorn (the Marquis of Lorne) Dr. Redlines (Dr. Russell) the Duke of Smotherland (Duke of Sutherland) Quoins, Phledold, Victa, Albaw, Hardolgh, and all the others may be readily recognized. Quite apart from the question of the "loyalty" or "disloyalty" of the work, its wit is undoubted. And the way in which many of the follies of the last London "season" are hit off in "Edward VII is (to those who can read "between the lines") exceedingly amusing.

SIR GEORGE CAMPBELL has contrived to be the laughing-stock of the House of Commons. Referring

o the debate on the Queen's Indian title the London Correspondent of the *Englishman* says :

"Sir George Campbell rose, evidently with the intention of making a long speech, but disaster befell him before he had gone far. He was loyal, enthusiastic, and quite in favour of the Government Bill; but, unfortunately, he dropped the remark that, whatever the title to be chosen by the Queen, the time was coming when she should assume in name, as in effect she had assumed, the position hitherto occupied by the great Mughal. The mention of this potentate, and something in Sir George's manner and tone immediately excited the visible nerves of the House, and it burst into loud laughter. Poor Sir George had scarcely got over this disconcerting hilarity when he put his foot in it again. Referring to the Premier's remark about the antiquity of Indian Princes, he observed that some of them might boast of an ancient genealogy, but that most of them were creations of last century. Those who were ancient were not great, and he did not think there was any Prince who occupied a higher position in India than was occupied in this country by—the Duke of Argyll. At this odd glorification of the House of Campbell by a Campbell, the House laughed louder and longer than before, and there was nothing left Sir George, after muttering another sentence or two, but to sit down.

Poor Sir George !

THURSDAY, 16TH MARCH.

THE LAST legacy which Dr. Norman Chevers leaves to Bengal seems to be a recommendation to Government urging the advisability of abolishing Government guarantee hitherto accorded to passed students of the Medical College for future appointments in the public service. We make no doubt that this recommendation constitutes an additional claim of Dr. Chevers to the gratitude of the people We dare say that his friends and admirers who are sure to honor him with a valedictory address on his retirement will take due notice of this just and generous recommendation.

A CORRESPONDENT thus writes to us from Deoghur under date the 12th instant:

"The great annual fair (Shiva Rattri) held in commemoration of the marriage of Shiva with Parbati is just over, and as usual succeeded by cholera—which for the last two weeks has been raging here with fury.

While dwelling on this subject may I venture to point out certain facts generally believed to be the causes of this fatal disease 1st. The town of Deoghur is too small to accommodate the thousands of pilgrims who visit Holy Baidyanath at this time of the year, 2nd, no opportunity is lost by the shopkeepers to adulterate the articles of food. 3rd, notwithstanding the existence of a municipality here the conservancy arrangements are any thing but adequate to the emergency and last though not the least the total absence of proper shelter for homeless strangers."

WE HAVE received the following letter from Comilla dated the 14th March :

"The sad catastrophe that occurred on Saturday, the 11th instant in the Government School, ought to have a place in a corner of your valuable journal.

Precisely at 12 A. M. a slight shower of rain, accompanied with hails began to fall. The Head Master, Babu Hari Prosad Banerjee, was in the First Class and was looking over the slates. I took the opportunity of showing my slate first. No sooner my composition was looked over, I took my stand under the middle sun-shade, to survey the natural phenomenon then presented all around. Fortunately for me a few drops of rain fell over my head, and I consequently went down a few steps back. In a minute or two there was heard a loud thunder. Again, say, a minute after, another lightning passed away. It appeared to me that it fell at a distance of 5 or 6 cubits from the place where I kept my *stand. The Head Master Babu was yet engaged in working* over the slates. I was thunder-struck to see the lightning thus passing away by me. I cried "Sir the lightning fell only here"; the Head Master told me to shut the door and take my seat. I was about to sit when two boys from the class next to us, came running to the Head Master, who could only pronounce, "Sir, three boys have already fallen." We all immediately ran over to the spot, found them lying in a precarious state. In half an hour's time the energetic Native Doctor, Babu Sasi Mohun Sen and then the Civil Surgeon came. They examined the boys and gave hopes of their lives. You and your readers will be happy to hear that all of them are yet alive, The lightning passed by them. Had it struck the school there would have surely been a wholesale loss of life. Such is the result of the absence of a thunder-rod in a school !"

A LAHORE CORRESPONDENT sends us the following :—

"An immense treasure amounting to three crores of rupees is said to be lying hidden in the field near by the canal in front of the Akbari Gate of the city. This information has been given to the Deputy Commissioner of Lahore by a man named Dasundee, who attaches the following story in connexion with the matter. That his great grandfather was a treasurer in the staff of Prince Dara (Shahjehan's eldest son) that during the contest which ensued between Dara and Aurungzebe the former made away the above sum and caused it to be thus deposited in the ground, in view to his own private use in the event of his failing to occupy the throne. What followed afterwards is known to history and need not therefore be recounted here, suffice it to say that the treasure remained intact destined to be corrupted by moth and rust ever since. The fact was however known to the treasurer mentioned above but he was never able to exhume the money. On his deathbed it is said he communicated this secret to his son and advised him to take measures to purchase the plot of land wherein this money was deposited and do the needful. The son however was not a whit more successful than the father and so the secret continued to be communicated from father to son till it came down to the informant of our Deputy Commissioner. This man is now in his dotage and having had no issue thought it proper to bring the matter to the notice of Government claiming one-third of the amount. The Deputy Commissioner held that as he was not the rightful owner of the treasure he cannot have a third of it but should the money turn up Government may give him a lak of rupees. On the other hand he was required to deposit a sum of Rupees 20) as a guarantee for the expense to be incurred in this matter. We have been to the spot and found coolies were actually working there. About half a bighe of land to the depth of more than six feet has been dug up and it is said that the Deputy Commissioner was in person there during the first two days of the operation. Traces of a large subterranean building has been found but the money has not been turned up yet.—The popular belief however is that it is the effect of a temporary insanity on the part of Dusundee."

THE PIONEER is sorely vexed with Professor Max Muller for pronouncing Babu Rajendralala Mitra's book on *The Antiquities of Orissa*, as one which "would do credit to any European scholar," and with Lord Salisbury for subscribing to that opinion. Our contemporary thinks that "the patriotism" with which the Babu declared Indian art to be "self-evolved, self-contained, and independent of all exteraneous admixture," has deprived him of all claims to be heard as an authority on the subject, particularly as the *Pioneer* had written an article condemnatory of such opinion in its issue of the 13th May last. We remember to have read a reply to that article in the columns of our contemporary, and the Babu has since thrown out a challenge on the subject in his remarks on Mr Growse's paper on certain sculptures found at Mathura, and that challenge too has not yet been taken up either by Mr. Growse or our contemporary. The Allahabad print, however, admits that "for the rest, *The Antiquities of Orissa* deserve (*sic*) all the praise showered upon it from Oxford and the India Office," adding that "it is a mine of learning ; and its illustrations, printing, binding, and general finish are worthy of the most skilled craftsmen of London or Paris."

WE ARE requested by the Dewan of Rai Dhunput Sing Bahadur to publish the following :

"Rai Dhunput Bahadoor was contemplating to commemorate the Royal visit by some tangible work of public utility, when Babu Hemanta Coomar Ghose saw him on behalf of the Indian League and proposed to him to found a scholarship in the name of His Royal Highness. It is not necessary, I believe, to assure you that Rai Dhunput is shrewd, enterprising and patriotically inclined. It was he who founded the present political Association at Moorshedabad. But his one idea is to revive the indigenous manufactures of the country. He has been making enquiries for the last several years for the purpose of starting a cotton mill here. I have myself personally been to several places for the purpose. But one great want we could not supply—I mean the want of native and therefore cheap engineers to manage mills.

So when the scheme was proposed by Babu Hemanta Coomar, it was enthusiastically taken up by the Rai Bahadoor as he saw he could easily send people to England to have them instructed in managing mills, engines &c &c. He made over the control of the fund by a letter to the Indian League and wrote to Lord Ulick Browne for permission to call the scholarship by the name of the Prince. But when the Indian League having got hold of other funds, proposed to found a college in this country, he saw that it would be infinite times better to establish such a college here than to send people to England for educational purposes. He cheerfully consented to apply that fund for the establishment of the college and wrote to Government accordingly. It is upon the last letter that Sir Richard Temple found his Resolution in the *Calcutta Gazette.*"

MR. O'RIELY advocated in the House of Commons the improvement of the position and prospects of Roman Catholic Chaplains. If the Christian Church is to be maintained out of the Indian Revenue, we see no reason whatever, why an invidious distinction should be made between the Protestant and Roman Cathotic Chaplains. The real question is whether it is just and conscientious to allow the taxes paid by Hindus and Mahomedans to be appropriated to the support of the Christian Church, and we hope to see the question some day satisfactorily solved.

A BILL has been introduced in Parliament authorizing superannuation allowances to officers of Municipalities.

FRIDAY, 17TH MARCH.

LORD G. HAMILTON proposed a resolution in reference to the Council of India (Pensions) on which to found a bill for the purpose of enabling the Secretary of State to appoint certain lawyers—not exceeding three—as his advisers. At present no adequate remuneration was provided for counsel, and it was proposed that the gentlemen appointed should have the privileges they would have enjoyed under the original Act of 1858. Does the Secretary of State require the assistance of so many as three lawyers ?

THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA made the following remarks in the House of Commons on the Exchange question :

"The Secretary of State does not at present intend to alter the system of drawing bills of exchange upon India, but he is quite prepared to adopt from time to time such measures as may appear to him likely to lessen the loss in exchange, and he will be glad to consider any practical suggestion which my hon. friend or any other authority may have to make to him. The loss of two millions per annum is chiefly a matter of account, as the rupee is estimated for convenience sake in the Indian accounts at 2s. Previous to 1857 the rupee was estimated at 1s. 10½d."

WITH regard to factory legislation in India Lord G. Hamilton vouchsafed the following information :

"The matter at present stands thus:—In March last year a commission was appointed in Bombay to inquire into the subject. The commission made its report in July, 1875, the majority being adverse to any legislation upon the subject. The President and Dr. Blaney, another member of the commission were of opinion that a simple legislative Act would be beneficial. The Government, upon receiving this report, determined to make further inquiries, and the Collectors of Surat and Broach are now collecting evidence. A final report may therefore shortly be expected.

OXFORD has shewn a most generous sympathy in the cause of oriental literature. The Oxford University has resolved to relieve Professor Max Muller of his educational duties and to retain his services on half pay in order to provide him leisure for his literary labors. This is the first instance of an "endowment for research" in the strict sense of the terms.

THE FOLLOWING remarks of H. R. H. the Prince of Wales are going the round of the press. H. R. H. is reported to have said, "I shall, I know, be expected to be an encyclopædia about the country when I get home, but I do not feel like one. However, I am certain of this, *India cannot be governed from England.* The plan is, when you have a good man, stick to him." But the poor people of India have no choice, witness Lord Northbrook's case !

YESTERDAY the appeal of the actors of the Great National Theatre was heard by the Chief Justice and Mr. Justice Phear. The learned judges have taken time to deliver judgment.

IT IS STATED that Lord Northbrook will assume his title from a place in Hampshire, Micheldever, where his property lies. Not a very happy choice of name we must take the liberty to say.

SATURDAY, 18TH MARCH.

THE HEALTH-RETURN of Calcutta for the week ending the 11th March gives the total number of deaths at 286. There were 3 deaths from small-pox, and 83 deaths from cholera.

THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA notifies that in consequence of the death of Bishop Milman, the episcopal jurisdiction and functions will be exercised by the Bishop of Madras.

THE FRIEND OF INDIA has the following :

"Among the communications we have had with reference to "The World's History" and other books of the series, is one from an experienced educationist, in which he says: "Our fine English language is getting corrupted in India by books of the stamp of "The World's History," written in an ungrammatical and slipshod style ; as though any kind of English were good enough for little Bengalee boys." The writer goes on to remark on Mr. Lethbridges epitome of Indian History. "Epitomes" he says, "are useful things in their way, but they ought not to be made class-books. In appointing this little book for the Entrance examination, the Senatus of the University have done their best to perpetuate and aggravate the system of cramming. To be compelled to teach it, is little short of an insult.'

How fickle is fame !

IT IS STATED that almost the last act of Lord Northbrook has been a scheme of Native Army reform, which has been forwarded to the Secretary of State.

A CORRESPONDENT of the *Friend of India* makes the following interesting disclosures :

"Having in former times served in the Punjab, I have some slight acquaintance with a few of the jobs that were accomplished in that remote province in favour of military men and uncovenanted Civilians. I still keep up my acquaintance with the Punjab by means of correspondence with old friends. Here are some of the jobs with which I have been made acquainted. I begin at the beginning—

Name and Appointment.	Probable cause.
1. Col. Richard Lawrence made Deputy Commissioner of Simla direct from the Army.	A brother of Sir John Lawrence.
2. Capt. Forbes, Inspector of schools and afterwards Superintendent of the State of Chamba.	His wife was a relative of Sir John Lawrence.
3. Mr. Peacock, made Assistant Commissioner in the Punjab without having passed any qualifying examination.	Son of Sir Barnes Peacock, C. Justice of Bengal ; Judicial talent was believed hereditary.
4. Col. Cox, late Commissioner in the Punjab, lost his appointment by overstaying his leave, but was reinstated.	Was a popular man, played croquet well.
5. Col Blair Read, of Chamba lost his Deputy Commissionership by overstaying his leave, was made Superintendent of Chamba, and now draws Rs. 2,000 a month.	Consolation for a domestic bereavement.
6. Capt Grey, lost his district by defying the Chief Court acted for some time as Cantonment Magistrate of Barrackpore, and returned to the Punjab to act as Deputy Commissioner.	A near relation of Sir W Grey, late Lieutenant Governor of Bengal.
7. Capt Macaulay acting as Deputy Commissioner after two years or so in civil employ.	A nephew of the late Lady Trevelyan.
8. Capt Roberts, a junior A. C. acting as Deputy Commissioner for a year *vice* Capt Macaulay on furlough	Son of the late Mr Roberts, Financial Commissioner of the Punjab
9. Mr Cunningham, pleader, appointed to compile the *Punjab Gazetteer* at a time when the province was crammed with junior civilians.	Either a brother or nephew of Mr. Cunningham, Barrister of Madras, who had interest with the Government
10. Capt Beckett of the 2nd Sikhs, appointed Assistant Political Agent of Bahawulpore.	Related by marriage to the Political Agent.
11. Capt. Burne lately acting for him for two years.	A. D. C. of Sir Henry Davies and brother of Col. Burne, late Lord Mayo's Military Secretary.
12. Mr. R. Bruce, (uncovenanted) a junior Assistant Commissioner in charge of the State of Mandi"	Had missionary interest.

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WE TAKE from the morning papers the following telegrams of the week :

London 14th March.—Replying to a question of Mr. Noel in the House of Commons to-night Mr. Disraeli said it was inexpedient to produce the despatches relative to the Titles Bill, whereupon Mr. Noel announced a motion against the Title of the Empress of India. It is rumoured that there is to be war between Japan and Corea, the British squadron in the Japan seas is to be reinforced in consequence.

15th March.—In the House of Commons replying to Sir William Harcourt, Mr. Disraeli said the Titles Bill had not been previously submitted to the Viceroy, because it did not affect the status of the people or the rights of Native Princes. The Marquis of Hartington gave notice that he would move that, though he was willing to consider the adoption of an additional title, it is inexpedient to impair the Royal dignity by assuming the title of Empress. The question is exciting warm discussion.

Paris 10th March.—The follwing modifications in the construction of the French Ministry have been announced Dufaure becomes Minister of the Interior in succession to M. Raffet Duc Decazes, Leon Say, and General Cissey retain their portfolios as Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Finance and for War, respectively. The other members of the Cabinet belong to, the Left Centre. Articles have appeared in the Republican organs disapproving of these changes.

Vienna, 10th March.—There was an engagement near Goransko on the 9th ultimo between the Turkish troops and the insurgents, in which the former were severely defeated, with loss of their artillery and 800 killed, besides many wounded.

Berlin, 13th March.—The German Squadron in the China Seas is to be reinforced.

Constantinople, 13th March.—The Turks deny that they were defeated by the insurgents in the engagement on the 9th instant,

Cairo, 13th March.—Intelligence received here from Massowah states that the Abyssinian troops were routed by the Egyptians on the 9th instant, and that King John was suing for peace. Meanwhile hostilities have been suspended and negociations for peace are proceeding.

Yokohama, 15th March.—Minister Kuroda returned from the capital of Corea to Yeddo on the 5th instant. Peace between Japan and Corea has been settled, but the terms have not transpired.

Singapore. 15th March.—Advices received here from Manilla state that the expedition against the pirates at Sosloo has been successful.

Aden, 16th March.—The *Hindoostan* with the English mails sailed for Bombay at midnight yesterday. The *Cathay*, for Galle and Calcutta, sailed at 5 o'clock yesterday afternoon.

Penang, 16th March.—Datu Sagor, upon whose head 3,000 dollars was awarded by the Governor of the Straits settlements has been made a prisoner. He was seized at a place called Bandar Rahra. It is rumoured that the ex-Sultan Ismail with his regalia has been captured. He has not been brought here nevertheless.

WE HAVE to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the under-mentioned publications and periodicals :—1. Gazetteer N. W. P. Vol III. Meerut Division, Part II. 2. Proceedings of the Bengal Social Science Association. Inaugural address by the Hon'ble Sir Richard Temple, Lieutenant Governor of Bengal, President of the Association. Delivered at the annual meeting held on the 23rd February 1876. 3 Proceedings of the Select Committee on the Municipal Bill. 4. Dutta's series in Bengali. No VI Diseases of the Females. 5. The National Magazine Vol I. Part 8, November 1876. 6. Bharut Srumjeebi or Indian Laborer. Vol II. No. 21, 7. Bunga Mahila. Vol I. No. 11. Faulgoon, 1282 B. S. 8. Unoobikhun or the Microscope a Bengalee monthly journal. Vol I. No. 6 for Pouse 1282 B. S. 9. Indian Legislation Bill, a pamphlet.

THE BENGAL CHRISTIAN HERALD has developed itself into the *Indian Christian Herald*. Its bulk has been increased and the matter in quantity as well as in quality has improved. We congratulate our contemporary on the success he has achieved.

The Hindoo Patriot.

MONDAY, MARCH 20, 1876.

THE EMPRESS OF INDIA.

OUR Gracious Sovereign has announced her intention to assume the title of Empress of India. Mr. Disreali in applying for leave to introduce a Bill to add to the style and titles appertaining to the Imperial Crown of the United Kingdom and its dependencies said that this measure had been contemplated at the time the Crown assumed the direct Government of India, but as he explained that time was inopportune for a change. "Why," he remarked, "when our swords were reeking with carnage in terminating a rebellion, or rather mutiny, of almost unequalled magnitude, that certainly was not a period when we could advise Her Majesty to make an addition to her titles." But the authority of England in India has been re-established on a firmer basis than ever, and the interest of the English nation in this distant dominion has since grown deeper and deeper. Mr. Disreali said, "I remember when I first entered this House, now about 40 years ago, that there were, I believe, even members of Parliament who looked upon India as a vast country which, generally speaking, was inhabited by a single and by a subjugated race. But since then information has been so much diffused among all classes of our countrymen on the subject of India, that even those who have the most ordinary information are now well aware that India is an ancient country of many nations; that it is peopled by various and varying races, differing in origin, in language, in religion, in manners, and in laws,—some of them highly gifted and highly civilized, and many of them of rare antiquity. (Hear, hear.) And this vast community is governed, under the Queen, by many Sovereign Princes, some of whom occupy Thrones which were filled by their ancestors when England was a Roman Province. (Hear, hear.) The presence of the Prince of Wales in India has naturally increased and stimulated this feeling of sympathy in both countries." Her Majesty has very gracefully explained her reason for taking a title in connection with India. In her Royal Speech to Parliament she said :

"I am deeply thankful for the uninterrupted health which my dear son, the Prince of Wales, has enjoyed during his journey through India. The hearty affection with which he has been received by my Indian subjects of all classes and races assures me that they are happy under my rule and loyal to my throne. At the time that the direct Government of my Indian Empire was transferred to the Crown no formal addition was made to the style and titles of the Sovereign. I have deemed the present a fitting opportunity for supplying this omission, and a Bill upon the subject will be presented to you."

And India cannot but feel proud of the honor which her Gracious Sovereign purposes to confer upon her. The Indian Empire is the brightest jewel in the British diadem, and what could be more befitting than that the wearer of the Crown should wear it openly and publicly. Those who oppose it seem to be under an apprehension that if it be snatched away some day there would be a gap in the Crown. That apprehension, we need hardly say, is wholly groundless. So long as England will govern India on the broad principles of law, justice, and mercy, inculcated in the Royal Proclamation, she will have nothing to fear. India is now so much identified with England that she looks upon the British Crown as a part of her national existence. What better proof of this feeling is needed than that which was afforded in the enthusiastic loyal reception which was accorded to the Queen's eldest son, the Heir Apparent to the Throne, from one end of the empire to the other. Not only did the people, the subjects of the Queen, rejoice at the advent of H. R. H., but the native chiefs and potentates, who are sovereigns of their own dominions, acknowledged the supremacy of Her Majesty in the homage paid to her son. They have willingly and tacitly taken the position of feudatories of the British Crown. India has forestalled legislation and proclaimed the Queen the Empress of Hindusthan. In the many addresses, which poured in to H. R. H. the Prince on his advent, this title was recognized, and the Government too in translating the Royal title has used words expressive of the imperial dignity. Why should then Parliament hesitate to acknowledge the title which Her Majesty's Indian subjects have from a spontaneous feeling of loyal devotion given to her? The squeamishness of Parliament is inexplicable to us, and if there had been time the people of India would have gladly demonstrated their feeling on the subject. They will, however, we hope in one voice, do so as soon as the assumption of the new title is proclaimed.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE *vrs.* THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

THERE have been at least two members of the Indian Council who have dissented from the despatch of the Secretary of State to the Governor General regarding the Tariff Act. They are Sir Erskine Perry and Sir Robert Montogomory. It would appear that the despatch of the Secretary of State with the dissents has been laid before Parliament. A debate has already taken place in the House of Lords on the subject. According to Reuter, "last night (March 14) in the House of Lords, Lord Halifax complained that the Marquis of Salisbury, in his despatch to the Viceroy, of 11th November, concerning the late Indian Tariff Legislation, had departed from the principle of governing India, as far as possible, in India, and he maintained that it was expedient to increase rather than diminish the influence of the Viceroy and the Viceregal Council. Lord Salisbury, in defending his conduct, said he had only desired that the Indian Government should acquaint him before taking the legislative decision, so that, after an interchage of views, the Indian interests might be represented, whilst the imperial considerations should be borne in mind. The Duke of Argyll, Lord Lawrence, Earls Grey and Granville, blamed the Marquis of Salisbury. The Duke of Richmond, Lord Gordon, and Earl of Carnarvon, spoke in his defence." There the matter dropped. In the House of Commons no debate it seems has yet taken place, but we believe Mr. Fawcett will put the question to the Under-Secretary of State for India. We do not certainly expect the same party fight over Lord Salisbury's despatch to Lord Northbrook that took place on Lord Ellenborough's Oudh despatch to Lord Canning. There is some difference in the points at issue. Lord Canning had then successfully conquered a formidable insurrection and therefore deserved the sympathy and support of Her Majesty's Government. Then the Indian Minister, not content with indicting that violent and insulting despatch, had published it without even the consent of his colleagues. This was adding fuel to fire. And lastly Lord Canning's despatch did not in the least affect English interests, and there was consequently no class interest at work. The English public were therefore in a position to take a dispassionate and disinterested view of the question at issue. The same cannot be said of the Tariff question, which has called forth the thunders of the India Office. It is well known that Manchester is the fifth Power in the realm, and the Government of India has committed the unparalled sin of provoking its wrath. If it were not for Manchester we doubt whether the Tariff Act would have produced much noise, for England or English politicians generally do not care for purely Indian interests. It is this feature in the Parliamentary Government of India, which fills us with alarm.

We know how India has been governed since the management of its affairs has been transferred from the Company to the Crown. "Under the previous system," as the writer of the brochure on the Indian Legislation Bill remarks,

> "the previous system by which India was acquired and had prospered for nearly a century, its administration was carefully reviewed, each time the East India Company applied for a renewal of their charter, and such conditions were inserted in the new charter, as that review suggested. Those periodical investigations, by exposing whatever was amiss, not only led to amendment, but induced, through fear of exposure at the next renewal, caution and watchfulness on the part of the Company's government. The safeguards thus created were swept away when the new system was introduced; and the only thing that replaces them at present is the responsibility of Ministers to Parliament—a responsibility which the inaction of the latter, in Indian matters, has hitherto rendered nugatory.
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> As a natural consequence of such a condition of things, caution and watchfulness were relaxed; waste and extravagance crept in, and the country gradually fell into that deplorable state which Lord Mayo so forcibly described in his Budget Speech of 1870, when he said" An accumulated deficit of six millions has occurred in the last three years; the permanent debt, during the same period, has increased by nearly six and a half millions; the serious and unprecedented course of increasing the burdens of the people in the middle of the year has been taken; the Public Works have, in great measure, been suspended; the Income Tax and the Salt Tax in Madras and Bombay have been increased; the Government has declined to terrify the people by new taxes, and endeavoured to extricate the Empire from a very great difficulty, by the only mode which it though it could venture to adopt; the period has been of great trouble to the Empire and of anxiety to the Government."
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> When we consider what restraints upon the Executive we hold to be essential to good government at home, can we wonder that an Executive, that has been released from almost all such restraints, should not have withstood all temptations and steered clear of all dangers? Human nature must change before such a result can be obtained, and it would now be vain in us to look for good Government in India, so long as a condition of things is allowed to endure, which we know must lead to a different result."

So it matters little whether it is the Secretary of State or the Governor General, who rules India, so long as the Imperial Parliament exercises no check whatever over the executive authorities. In the particular question at issue between Lord Salisbury and Lord Northbrook, the latter is decidedly in the right, for his sole consideration has been the welfare of the people of India. Lord Salisbury has been evidently inspired with a desire to conciliate and pamper Manchester, and as Lord Northbrook has taken the wind out of his sails he is naturally angry. In the debate in the House of Lords we are sorry to observe that Lord Halifax narrowed the question and reduced it to one of official etiquette or discipline. But

that is not the real question at issue. The Secretary of State being the superior authority, if the Governor General was wrong, it was certainly his duty to correct him. But the question is—is Lord Northbrook wrong? Lord Salisbury has not dared answer that question openly or directly. In fact he has not raised that question at all. He does not say whether the Viceroy has been right or wrong—he simply says that in matters of legislation the Viceroy ought to consult the Secretary of State first. Now that point is easily answered. The Constitution does not require the Governor General to take the previous assent of the Secretary of State to all projects of legislation; the latter if he does not approve of any measure has the right to veto it, and if he does not do so he has no right to complain. Lord Salisbury could not decently veto the Tariff Act, for if he had done so, perhaps he would have imperilled the position of the ministry itself, and sullied his own reputation as an Indian and impartial statesman. Little did we expect that a statesman of his position and character would stoop to bullying his subordinate. Perhaps his Lordship expected that the sting which he gave would result in the resignation of Lord Northbrook. If that was the case he has proved right. We are, however, glad at the result on one ground. The real cause of the split between Lord Salisbury and Lord Northbrook is known, and we would be very much mistaken if the former should again hastily seek to favor his new clients, the Manchester lords.

PROHIBITION OF PLAYS.

WE must confess at the outset that we cannot agree with the reasons, which Mr. Hobhouse adduced at the last sitting of the Governor General's Council for bringing in a bill "framed on the model of the new ordinance" for the prohibition of obnoxious plays. In saying this we do not mean that the Government should have no control over the theatres; if the existing law does not give sufficient power, by all means take it, but not in a way, which would repress literature and liberty. Mr. Hobhouse frankly stated, the reasons, which had led the Government to propose the law. He said that "in the course of last year, a work was printed and published in a dramatic form, entitled *Cha-kar darpan*, which, he might state, meant the *Mirror of Tea*. He did not know who the author was, or what his motives were, but the work itself was about as outrageous a calumny as could possibly be conceived. Its object was to hold up as monsters of iniquity the class of tea-planters and all persons engaged in promoting emigration to the tea-planting districts, that was to say, men as respectable as any other body of men in the Empire. This play, indeed, was not acted, but there it was, written for the stage, and adapted for it in every respect; and for any preventive power the Government had, it might be acted at any moment." Again: "Another case occurred more recently. A respectable Hindu gentleman, holding a good position in society, one of the legal advisers of the Government, and a Member of the Legislative Council of Bengal, gave an entertainment at his house, which some of his caste-fellows disapproved. In order to punish him, they got up a play, in which this gentleman, though he had done nothing but what was perfectly lawful, perfectly innocent, and perfectly honorable, was represented as deliberately selling the honor of himself and his family in order to get promotion and money. Now, men were free to choose their own society, and if they found that one of their society had violated any of the rules they had laid down for themselves, they were at liberty to withdraw from association with him, however absurd those rules might be. But they were certainly not at liberty to spread abroad falsehood and calumny in order to inflict pain upon him. Yet this play was acted, an honorable gentleman held up to the scorn of an ignorant multitude, and we were told, and the undoubted fact was, that there was no direct legal power existing in the Government to step in and prevent such a proceeding, although when the act was done, those concerned in it might, and probably would, be punished. It was this last case which induced His Excellency the Viceroy to issue an ordinance for the purpose of giving the Government of Bengal power to control dramatic performances." Now, if the necessity of the law has been indicated by these two cases, the question arises; whether the present law is not sufficiently strong to punish the offenders, and whether it is the duty of the State to interfere on behalf of classes or individuals, who if they feel wronged can obtain legal redress by a recourse to the constituted courts of the country. Why should the State do that which it is the duty of private individuals to do for their own protection? We do not defend these dramas; they may be open to all the objections, which have been urged against them, but we do maintain that there is nothing exceptional in them, which requires exceptional legislation. Mr. Hobhouse is inconsistent in adducing the case of the *Cha-kur Durpan*. He admits that it has not been played on the stage, and yet it is considered a ground for exceptional legislation for the suppression of *plays*. Surely if the drama is calumnious and mischievous, it is so whether it be performed on the stage or not, and to be consistent, the legislature ought to suppress the writing as well as the acting of such plays. And if it does so, where is it to stop? An historical disquisition provoked serious riots in Bombay two years ago, and would the Legislature prohibit all disquisitions containing reflections upon any class of the community because they may provoke breach of the peace? The prototype of the *Cha-kur-Durpan* we might say was the famous *Nil Durpan*, and did the State step in to suppress the latter drama? Those who felt aggrieved by it sought for redress in the court, and they got it, though there was considerable difference of opinion as to whether the alleged offenders were rightfully punished. The *Cha-kur Durpan* is a silly production, and we cannot condemn it in too strong terms; in fact the mania for drama-writing among a certain class of natives is becoming positively mischievous and it ought to be repressed, not by the strong hand of exceptional laws, but by the gentle hand of criticism, and if necessary by the action of the ordinary laws of the land. If the tea planters were aggrieved by the production, the court was open to them. In the same manner any private individual, who was libelled by the other farce, should have had recourse to the regular machinery of the law for redress. It surpasses our understanding that the State should lend him the weight of its authority and provide a remedy, which the ordinary law of the land gives him if he would but avail himself of it. If he neglects that remedy, it is his own fault.

It is a different matter when the public weal is concerned. If a drama, whether it is played or not, contains seditious matter, it is certainly the duty of the State to interfere, but does it not possess sufficient power under the existing law? We will quote here the words of Mr. Stephen's Act of 1870, which bears on the subject. They are as follows:

"Whoever by words, either spoken or intended to be read, or by signs, or by visible representation, or otherwise, excites or attempts to excite feelings of disaffection to the Government established by law in British India, shall be punished with transportation for life or for any term, to which fine may be added, or with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years, to which fine may be added, or with fine.

"*Explanation.*—Such a disapprobation of the measures of the Government as is compatible with a disposition to render obedience to the lawful authority of the Government, and to support the lawful authority of Government against unlawful attempts to subvert or resist that authority, is not disaffection. Therefore the making of comments on the measures of the Government, with the intention of exciting only this species of disapprobation, is not an offence within this clause."

What greater power does the State want than this law gives for the suppression of seditious utterances in any form? As for plays, which may be slanderous, obscene or immoral, we give below the provisions of the Penal Code which apply to them:

Whoever sells or distributes, imports or prints for sale or hire or wilfully exhibits to public view, *any obscene* book, pamphlet, paper, drawing, painting, representation, or figure, or attempts or offers so to do, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description (53) for a term which may extend to three months, or with fine, or with both. (*Triable summarily* under Section 225, C. C. P. also under Section 222 C. C. P.)

Exception.—This Section does not extend to any representation sculptured, engraved, painted, or otherwise represented, on or in any temple, or on any car used for the conveyance of idols, or kept or used for any religious purpose.

Whoever has in his possession any such obscene book or other thing as is mentioned in the last preceding Section for the purpose of sale, distribution or public exhibition, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description (53) for a term which may extend to three months, or with fine, or with both. (*Triable summarily* under Section 225, C. C. P.; also under Section 222, C. C. P.)

Whoever sings, or recites, or utters in or near any public place any obscene song, ballad, or words to the annoyance of others, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description (53) for a term which may extend to three months, or with fine, or with both. (*Triable summarily* under Section 225, C. C. P.; also under Section 222 C. C. P.)

It is true that there is no definition of the word "obscene" in the Penal Code, but its dictionary meaning is quite sufficient. Webster construes it to mean, "offensive to chastity and delicacy; expressing or presenting to the mind or view something which delicacy, purity, and decency forbid to be exposed; impure; as *obscene* language; *obscene* pictures." Then the Penal Code thus defines defamation:

"Whoever, by words either spoken or intended to be read, or by signs or by visible representations, makes or publishes any imputation concerning any person (11), intending to harm, or knowing or having reason to believe (26) that such imputation will harm the reputation of such person, is said, except in the cases hereinafter excepted, to defame that person."

Now, we ask is not the existing law quite sufficient to protect the interests of peace, order, and morality and also private character? Has it failed in its effect, if not, why then have recourse to exceptional legislation? In the two cases mentioned by Mr. Hobhouse the ordinary law of the land was not availed of, and when such is the fact we are constrained to say that Mr. Hobhouse has failed to make out a case for further legislative interference.

We however agree with Mr. Hobhouse that the theatres should be brought under control. He thus explained the English law on the subject:

"It was not lawful for any person to have or to keep any house or any place of public resort for the public performance of stage plays, unless he had the authority either of Her Majesty's Letters Patent, or of the Lord Chamberlain's license, or a license granted by the Justices of the Peace, according to the locality in which he performed. Then there were rules provided, under which the licensees had to give bonds for their good behaviour, and rules by which power was given to the Lord Chamberlain and the Justices of the Peace to revoke licenses, and shut up licensed houses. But the most stringent rule of all was that which gave to the Lord Chamberlain complete power over every representation, or part of a representation, so that it might be prevented. It was provided that before every play, or even alteration of a play, was put upon the stage, a copy of it should be submitted to the Lord Chamberlain for at least seven days, and the Lord Chamberlain had absolute discretion to allow or disallow that performance. And even when the play was put upon the stage, the Lord Chamberlain might at any moment, at his own discretion, interfere and forbid the acting of it, if only he was of opinion that it was fitting for the preservation of good morals, decorum, or the public peace, that he should do so."

Now, if the law in India were put on the same footing as it is in England, we would not object. Let the theatres by all means be licensed by the Justices of the Peace for Calcutta, and let the plays be left with the Chairman of the Justices; let a Special Committee of Justices, consisting of native experts in the case of native plays, and of European experts in the case of European plays, be appointed, and let this Committee be authorized to disallow any play they might consider fit to disallow for the preservation of good morals, decorum or the public peace. We do not think that the Commissioner of Police would be the proper person to exercise this power, for he is not acquainted with the vernacular language, and cannot therefore be a fit judge of vernacular plays. It would not be wise to vest him with the Lord Chamberlain's function, which would be practically exercised on the opinion of irresponsible persons. But in no case we submit should the Justices interfere in which redress is provided for private individuals by the ordinary laws of the land. We repeat we have no sympathy whatever, with low and profligate plays, but we should be exceedingly sorry if in the attempt to bring them to under control our infant dramatic literature be nipped in the bud.

THE INDIAN LEGISLATION BILL.

IT is very inconvenient to India that legislation relating to it should be conducted in the Imperial Parliament without giving it an opportunity to make itself heard. There is for instance a Bill now before the House of Commons on the subject of Indian legislation; we do not know what its real bearings are; a very meagre report

of it has been given in the London papers; and by the time we may see the Bill, it will have become law. Why should not all Indian Bills introduced in the House of Commons be published in the *Gazette of India* for general information before enactment into law? Then the Indian public would have an opportunity to see the Bills and submit their opinions upon them. Lord George Hamilton in introducing the Indian Legislation Bill, which has called forth the above remarks, explained that it was substantially the Bill, which passed through the other House of Parliament last session, and which consolidated the limitations upon the legislative powers of the Governor General, with one exception, which it was proposed to omit, and "provided that no court, save the High Court of one of the Presidencies, should have power to decide that any Act of the Governor-General was *ultra vires*." The only report given in the *Times* on the second reading of the Bill is this:

On the motion for the second reading of this Bill,

Mr. Denison objected to some of its provisions, and gave notice that he would move amendments in Committee.

After a short conversation, in which Mr. Leith, Sir G. Campbell, Sir G. Balfour, Mr. Fawcett, and others took part,

Lord G. Hamilton said the Bill had been introduced at the request of the Governor-General of India, and its object was to give him a Parliamentary title to legislative power.

The Bill was read a second time.

Let the reader judge from the above report if he can what it means. We however learn from the *Englishman* that Sir George Campbell spoke of the Bill as enabling the High Courts to set the Legislature at defiance, and that Sir George Balfour "seems to have discovered a mare's nest." Our contemporary deserves the thanks of the Indian community for first drawing attention to the subject. He justly remarks that 'had our contemporaries been aware of the 'peculiarly insidious and reactionary character of certain provisions embodied in the Bill, it would, we feel sure, have been generally scouted."

The circumstances, which led to this Bill, are thus set forth in a brochure published in England and now lying before us:

"In 1873 a land mortgage case came, in appeal, before the High Court of Bombay, in which it was contended that the case was not cognizable by a British Court of Law, on the ground that the mortgaged land was part of certain territory which the Government of Bombay had ceded to the State of Bhownagar in 1835. A notification to that effect appeared in the *Bombay Official Gazette* in January, 1866, setting forth that the said territory was removed from under the jurisdiction of the Courts of the Bombay Presidency from the 1st February, 1866. It is said that the Governor-General in Council ratified the cession at the time; but it was only in January, 1873 that a notification to that effect was published in the *Official Gazette of India*. Meanwhile, the Evidence Act was passed and had been amended by the Legislature in India; and in its amended form, it provided that the Courts of Law shall be bound to accept as proof, that a territory has ceased to be British, the *Gazette* notification of the transfer of such territory.

The High Court of Bombay held however, that "the power to cede territory and transfer the allegiance of subjects was never possessed by the Directors of the East India Company, and could not, therefore, have been transferred to the Secretary of State, such power residing with the Imperial Legislature alone." Following this argument, the Court declared that the cession to Bhownagar was invalid; and that the notification in the *Official Gazette* was a dead letter, inasmuch as the section of the Evidence Act, on the authority of which the notification proceeded, was itself *ultra vires* of the Legislative Council who had passed the Act, being in defiance of various Acts of the Imperial Parliament. Then, as regarded the particular case of the Bhownagar cession, the section was of the nature of retrospective legislation and therefore inadmissable.

Efforts were made, it is said, to get the decision of the High Court of Bombay reversed or superseded, and to obtain an opinion of some eminent jurist, in favour of the power claimed by the Government; but those efforts failed entirely, and a reference was then made for the consideration of Her Majesty's Government at home, the result of which, so far as it has transpired, appears to be, that the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council were opposed to the claim of the Government of India, to cede territory whenever such a course should to it appear necessary and advisable, and that it concurred generally in the decision of the High Court of Bombay. The Judicial Committee admitted that "the power to cede territory and therewith transfer the allegiance of subjects may be constitutionally exercised by the Crown under its prerogative of making peace and war," but not otherwise.

This part of the Bill we are glad to notice has been omitted, but we do not know what the provisions of the Bill are, and we hope with the *Englishman* that the "watch-dogs of the constitution will not relax their vigilance."

THE LIBERTY OF THE SUBJECT.

THE facts of a curious case have been laid before us. It would seem that a Magistrate was telegraphed some time last year to investigate certain alleged charges of fraud against a Public Works Overseer. He telegraphed to Government that in his opinion certain charges should be made against the man; the Government telegraphed back authorizing him to make the charges; the Magistrate instead of prosecuting the officer before another Magistrate made the charges before himself. It did not strike the Magistrate that he had already committed himself to the statement in his executive capacity that those charges were sustainable. By his strange proceedings he the prosecutor became the judge, and as a matter of course convicted the man. The prisoner appealed, and until his appeal could be heard, he was with some difficulty released on bail. The appeal was set down to be heard after the Durga Puja holidays. While this matter was pending, the Magistrate, the same Magistrate, again charged him, this time with a non-bailable, offence, tried him himself, having in his executive capacity examined the witnesses at his house. He again convicted the man and sentenced him to imprisonment. The prisoner again appealed. While the appeals were pending the Magistrate directed a prosecution of some of the witnesses, who had deposed in favour of the prisoner. The appeals were heard by the Judge of Patna under orders of the High Court, who has reversed both the judgments of the Magistrate, and released the prisoner, though he convicted the man under a different section of the Penal Code, and fined him Rs. 500, admitting at the same time that he had no criminal intention whatever.

The two cases occurred in Mozufferpore. The person thus prosecuted and convicted was an old Overseer, named Sitanath Mookerjea. The Magistrate, who has thus distinguished himself is Mr. Worseley. The two cases we will call the Brick case and the Coal case respectively. The cases we are told arose in this way. The Government in 1873 had called the attention of the local Engineer to the balance of his budget, which unless spent within the year, would lapse. This was in March. The Engineer improvised some works, and orders were also given. This was also in March, the last month of the financial year. Sitanath was ordered to give orders for materials. He engaged a contractor to supply bricks, and as he conceived that the disbursement must be made within the month he granted a certificate for bricks received, the whole quantity of which had not however been received; afterwards some quantity of bricks were found not good, which he consequently rejected. This was the head and front of his offending, and then followed the series of prosecutions, which shew what excesses may be committed by an overzealous but wrong-headed Magistrate in the Mofussil to the detriment of the liberty of the subject. The Judge remarks:

"With regard to the first of the three points fixed for determination by the Magistrate there is nothing to be said, for it is admitted by appellant in his written statement of August 23rd 1875 that the certificate attached to Ex: A is "partially false" and it is also admitted that the certificate was filed in the office of Mr. Urquhart Executive Engineer, and that his order to pay Rs. 885, was passed in accordance with that certificate.

The second point fixed for determination viz. whether the appellant intended to deceive Mr. Urquhart and whether he did in fact deceive Mr. Urquhart, is the point on which the question of appellant's guilt or innocence in respect to the offence charged depends. When first put upon his trial appellant asserted that the certificate was true, but he subsequently abandoned this line of defence, and admitting that the certificate was partially false asserted that it was prepared under the orders of Mr. Urquhart (appellant's official superior) and with his full knowledge and consent, and that consequently Mr. Urquhart never was deceived by such certificate.

It is obvious that the determination of this point, viz., whether Mr. Urquhart was or was not deceived by the certificate, would materially depend mainly on the statements of Mr. Urquhart himself if he were a thoroughly trustworthy witness unfortunately he cannot be regarded by this court (nor was he regarded by the Magistrate) as thoroughly trustworthy, for it is beyond question that Mr. Urquhart is deeply interested in denying the truth of appellant's allegations (for if these allegations are true Mr. Urquhart would be liable to criminal proceedings) and he cannot therefore be regarded as an unbiased witness for the prosecution, and on the other hand Mr. Urquhart is by his own admission under heavy pecuniary obligations to the appellant and his statements so far as they tell in favor of appellant are open to suspicion on this ground. Moreover his evidence taken as a whole is certainly anything but clear and definite on the question at issue. Part of it would certainly justify the conclusion that he was deceived by appellant, but it is difficult to reconcile this view of the case with his statement made in cross-examination in which he says that "in this way I don't think Sitanath has deceived me in regard to the bill for Rs. 885. If he had deceived me and had been culpable I should have made him pay up and could have made him pay up" (p. 77 of the record).

Unfortunately there seems to have been a disinclination both on the side of the prosecution and the defence to press Mr. Urquhart to say whether the statement made by appellant is or is not true. This statement was not made until Mr. Urquhart had been examined, and cross-examined, but he might have been recalled and questioned after the statement of accused was put in.

If the case against appellant had to be decided by Mr. Urquharts evidence alone I should feel bound to hold that it is not sufficiently clear and trustworthy to justify any court in convicting accused upon it.

But there are other considerations which appear to me to tell very strongly in favour of the theory that appellants statement of August 23rd 1875 is as true account of the circumstances under which the certificate was prepared and signed by him."

After weighing all circumstances the Judge comes to the following conclusion:

"It appears to me that there is an entire absence of reasonable ground for imputing to appellant the motive of enriching himself or Sitaram by his conduct, and that there are moreover insuperable difficulties in reconciling his conduct with any such motive.

The next consideration for attention is whether Mr. Urquharts' conduct is consistent with the theory that he was decieved by appellant. He himself says "if I had been deceived I should have made him (appellant) pay up and could have made him pay up" at any rate it is natural to suppose he would have instituted enquiries into the affair and would not have rested quietly as he appears to have.

Great stress has been laid by the counsel for the prosecution on the alleged absence of any motive which could have induced Mr. Urquhart to direct appellant to prepare a false certificate,

But it is I think clear from the evidence of Mr. Urquhart himself and from *exhibits L M and N* that Mr. Urquhart *did* consider himself called upon (though he may not have felt actually *bound*) to show an expenditure of part of the allotment made for the solitary cells, *within* the financial year which expired on March 31st 73. The evidence of Madhub Chunder Roy, (p. 107 and 109 of record) shows that in the ordinary course of business it would be necessary in order to avoid trouble to show some result of the advances made to Sitaram and a certificate signed by the overseer would naturally suggest itself to Mr. Urquhart as the most convenient mode of exhibiting such result. The Magistrate says that accused has admitted that the work done by Sitaram was sufficient to cover the advance of Rs. 500, but accused only says it *appeared* to be sufficient and the amount eventually found to be due to Sitaram was less than Rs. 500.

The fact that the certificate bears the date of the *last* day of the financial year (though it *may be* only a coincidence) does in my opinion tend to confirm the truth of appellant's allegation that the certificate was prepared for the purpose of supporting a payment which it was desirable to show in the account of *that* year, and which had not up to that date been shown.

The counsel for the prosecution asks why, if appellant's statement be true, did he not draw up a certificate to cover the *whole* allotment of Rs. 1500?

As I have already pointed out, the same question might be put with great effect in answer to the theory put forward by the prosecution but in answer to the question I would say that as the appellant had already reported (Ex. T) that a sum of Rs. 1000 only could be expended within the year (of which part, being for *labour* and would not be shown in the certificate attached to Ex. A) it is easy to understand why a sum of Rs. 885 only was drawn on account of the allotment. Moreover the contract with *Sitaram* was for only a part of the work, not for the *whole* and a certificate for the *whole* could not be given to him.

The Magistrate in his judgment says that appellant might have proved the fact of the money having been paid for the purpose mentioned by him. But it does not appear that any person besides appellant and Mr. Urquhart were cognizant of the circumstances under which, according to appellant's statement, the money was drawn.

The Magistrate also remarks that a bill might have been drawn on a certificate that the work was done but not measured. Such a certificate might be given in the case of earthwork or masonry but it could not be given for bricks, the manufacture of which was the only work entrusted to Sitaram.

For the reasons above stated I feel bound to hold that there is a failure on the part of the prosecution to prove that Mr. Urquhart was deceived by appellant and that the probabilities of the case are entirely in favour of the truth of the statement made by accused."

The Judge, however, went out of his way, and punished the appellant under a different section for giving the partially false certificate by imposing upon him a fine of Rs. 500, saying:

"I think there fore that this court considering the numerous openings for fraud which exist in transactions connected with contracts in the Public Works Department is bound to take severe notice of appellant's conduct though he was not guilty of any fraudulent intention."

So far the appellant has good reason to rejoice. He certainly committed a serious blunder by giving a certificate, which was not wholly true; the Judge has himself correctly described his motive, which was to bring the disbursement, apparently under pressure, within the financial year, and as he is acquitted of fraudulent intention, we need not quarrel about the fine, though we hold that it was unjustly imposed.

The coal case broke down completely. After giving his reasons the Judge says:

"For the reasons stated above I feel bound to decide that there is no sufficient proof to shew that the coal referred to in the charge was appropriated by appellant or by any one else with his knowledge and consent and I therefore reverse the finding and sentence of the Magistrate and direct that the appellant be released and that the fine imposed or any part of it which may have been paid may be refunded to him."

It is observable that the poor Overseer, though he was declared innocent by the Sessions Judge,

was made to suffer one week's imprisonment in the bailable case, because the first Sessions Judge did not at first like to "weaken the hands of the Magistrate" by releasing him at once, and three months' imprisonment in the non-bailable case.

Now, what is the moral of these proceedings? Can it be said that the liberty of the subject is safe in the hands of magistrates like the one depicted in the judgments of a brother civilian, the Sessions Judge? What could be more dangerous than that under the system prevailing in the mofussil the prosecutor can act the judge at his discretion and thus defeat the ends of justice? If such a case as this had occurred in England what would have been the public verdict? Would the taxpayers have remained quiet, and would they have meekly allowed such a magistrate to be paid out of the public revenue? But India is not England. Here public opinion is feeble, and hopelessly feeble when natives are concerned. These can make themselves heard when they are backed by their European fellow-subjects, but the latter cannot ordinarily be expected to take much interest in the sufferings of the former. The reader is aware what enormous powers are invested in the district magistrate under the present system. He is virtually the autocrat of the district; in all matters he has a voice potential, and when he is apt to imbibe prejudices or bias in his executive capacity, is it proper that he should be vested with judicial powers? The two functions are incompatible with each other, and their combination in the hands of the same person is dangerous to the liberty of the subject. We have given a glaring instance above, and we do not know how many cases of this kind occur in the mofussil, which do not see the light of publicity, and in which the poor sufferers pine away in silence. We are informed that the whole native population of Behar has been struck with terror at the high-handed proceedings of the magistrate in this case, and it remains to be seen what notice the Government will take of the conduct of its subordinate.

TWO INDIAN CHIEFS.

WE feel a peculiar pleasure in recording the benefactions of our Indian chiefs. We have before us two pamphlets, giving accounts of the charities of their Highnesses the Maharajas of Puttialla and Viziniagram. The first and foremost act of the present Maharaja of Puttialla's liberality was the endowment of the Punjab University College, amounting to Rs. 106,351. His Highness's next great act—an act of high administrative importance—was the organization of a department of education in his own dominions at an outlay of Rs. 70,000 per annum. The third act of His Highness the Maharaja's generosity is an endowment for an annual grant of Rs. 1,200 to the Himalaya Christian Orphanage at Simla, now called the "Mayo Industrial School." His Highness has given away no less than Rs. 1,18,948 to charitable objects connected with England and British India. We need not allude to works of beneficence and administrative reform, which His Highness has introduced in his own State, and which have justly filled his loyal subjects with gratitude.

His Highness the Maharaja of Vizianagram, though not occupying the position of a sovereign chief, has been noted for princely benefactions. His Highness is descended from the Ranas of Oodoypore, the most ancient royal house in India. According to the traditions of this famous house, one of the "*own*" brothers of the Maharaja of Oodoypore, named Vijeabhoop, emigrated to Oudh and made large conquests, the whole of Oudh. In the year 514 Saka era, corresponding to 519 A. D., his descendant Madhavavurmah accompanied by a considerable force and the five clans, consisting of the five Gotras *viz.*, Vasishta, Dhanunjaya, Koundinya, Kasyapa, and Bhradwaja, emigrated to Deccan, and conquered from Ramanad to Cuttack, or more than two-thirds of the present Madras Presidency. Their capital was Vijeanagur which is situated between the present Vijianagram and Hydrabad, afterwards transferred to Bezwarrah on the banks of the Kristna. Their descendants, Thummiraj, and others, reigned over the Kingdom about 921 years. We glean these facts from a short account of the family which has been placed in our hands. This paper also acquaints us with the loyal services to the British Government and acts of public beneficence rendered by the ancestors of the Maharaja. The liberality and public spirit of the present Maharaja are well known. We give the following facts from the account before us:

"The present area of the country is 8000 square miles, and the population amounts to 900,000. During the administration of the present Maharaja a Rajpoot girl's school was established in march 1867 and the present strength is about 330 pupils. Several male and female schools have been established in the Raj and in several Districts in the Madras Presidency, Benares, and other places for the advancements of female Education. A Sanskrit Seminary was also founded at Vejeanagur and there are twelve professors at present. Of late the Industrial School has been introduced into the capital, and a large Poor House erected, both of which are in excellent order. Besides the High School at Vejeanagur, which ranks with a Zillah School, there are several other Branch Schools all over the Raj. The Hospital and a Lying-in Hospital at Vejeanagur, and five other branch Hospitals in the Taluqs, have also been established for the benefit of the public, and roads annicut, tanks, canals and bridges constructed to render the Raj secure and happy. In fact, the Maharaja has done and is still doing, all he can in every way, to reform and elevate the condition of the Raj and to promote the welfare of the public at large; and is in consequence highly distinguishing himself as one of the most enlightened Chiefs of India."

We are glad to learn that His Excellency the Viceroy has been pleased to direct that a salute of 13 guns to His Highness the Maharaja of Viziniagram be fired on every occasion as it is done in honor of other Native Princes and Chiefs. His Excellency has addressed the following autograph letter to His Highness on the subject:

Government House, Calcutta, 26th February 1873.

MY DEAR MAHARAJA,—In compliance with your Highness' wishes as expressed in your letter to Captain Baring of the 19th instant. I have had much pleasure in giving directions that the personal salute of 13 guns now given to your Highness only on entering and leaving the Presidency, shall in future be given on the same occasions when salutes are given to other Princes and Chiefs. Arrangements will accordingly be made for the salute when I shall have the pleasure of receiving your Highness on Tuesday next.

I am always your Highness' sincere friend,
(Sd) NORTHBROOK.

We have received a list of the charities of the Maharajah. We give below a statement of the munificent donations of His Highness:

	Rs.
Drinking Fountain, Hyde Park, London ...	14,500
Ditto ditto Madras ...	13,000
Vejeanagur Dispensary, Raj Ghat, Benares ...	15,000
University, Allahabad, towards erection ...	100,000
Alfred Town Hall, Benares	150,000
Surgical Ward, Prince of Wales Hospital, Benares ...	15,000
Tower of Central Hospital, Allahabad ...	15,000
Town Hall, Vijeanagram	6,000
Alms House, Vijeanagram	4,000
Industrial School, Vijeanagram	4,000
Mahomedan College, Allyghur, towards erection ...	3,000
Carmichael Library, Benares	10,000
Another Girls' School, Vijeanagur	15,000
Additions and improvements to the existing Vijeanagur High School	10,000
Second Benares Dispensary, together with the purchase money of the site	20 000
Vijeanagur New Dispensary	10,000
Subbavaram New Dispensary	8,000
Chipoorpilli New Dispensary	8,0 0
Karnool Drinking Fountain	6,000
Bengal Famine Relief	20,000
Jounpore Relief Fund	3,000
Girls' School, London, for Officer's children ...	2,000
Home for Natives, in London	500
Bengalee Ladies School, Calcutta	1,000
Lord Mayo's Memorial Fund	2,000
Rajah Deonarain Sing's, Fund	1,000
Miss Carpenter's Indian Association ...	500
Moneghur Choultry, Madras	10,000
Calcutta, Zoological Gardens	10,000
Donations to the Orissa famine Fund, Benares Green House, Benares Machodari Works, &c., ...	2,800
Donations under Miscellaneous heads	74,426
Branch Roads constructed throughout Vijeanagur Raj District, between 1852 and 1864 ..	2,11,000
Contributions to charities and other Philanthropic purposes from 1860 to 1870	4,00,000
Total Rs.	11,64,726

The annual contributions of the Maharaja in aid of various charitable and educational institutions amount to Rs. 81,752.

May the Maharaja live long and continue to do good to his countrymen!

THE MOFUSSIL MUNICIPAL BILL.

IN the excitement about the Calcutta Municipal Bill we are afraid our countrymen are losing sight of another municipal bill of far greater importance, we mean the Mofussil Municipalities' Bill. It is a Bill, which will affect millions of people, and yet not a word is said about it. The British Indian Association is the only public body, which has addressed the Bengal Council on the subject. The Native members of the Council are fighting the battle of their countrymen without any expression of sympathy from those interested. We can tell our countrymen that the present bill is Sir George Campbell's Bill *redivivus, minus* the clauses objected to by the Viceroy, and this fact is a sufficient certificate to its character. There have been several important amendments made, but much more remains to be done. We give below a few illustrations of the kind of matters, ventilated by the native members, but in which as usual they have been generally outvoted. The following discussion took place about the formation of municipal unions:

A native member moved the insertion of the following proviso at the end of the section:—

"Provided that no village having a population of less than 1,000 souls shall be included in a first class municipality, and no village having a population of less than 500 souls shall be included in a second class municipality."

The reason of the amendment he had stated when he spoke on this Bill at the time it was read in Council. Honble members were doubtless aware that great complaint prevailed in the mofussil in consequence of the inclusion of villages in municipal unions which were not able to bear the burden of municipal taxation. There were also outlying villages incorporated with municipalities which did not receive any adequate return for the taxes they paid, and the inhabitants of which were therefore sufferers by the extension of the Act to them. When he proposed that no outlying village having a population of less than 1,000 souls should be included in a first class municipality, and no village having a population of less than 500 souls should be included in a second-class municipality, he meant that such villages were not in a position to bear municipal burdens. Bengal consisted chiefly of rural villages; its wants in sanitary matters were few: but the machinery for municipal administration required a large expenditure of money which many of these villages were not in a position to meet. Considering these circumstances, he submitted that the limitation proposed in a subsequent section would not obviate the objection he had taken, and he therefore hoped the amendment would be agreed to.

"Mr. Dampier did not think there was any necessity for the amendment. The amendment was that no place should be united with a first or second class municipality which had not 1,000 and 500 souls respectively. But suppose the case of a little row of shops a quarter of a mile outside the town which was the *nucleus*; supposing there were only 25 of these shops; they took their things into the town and supplied the town, and derived their subsistence from the town,—why should not they be included in the municipality because there were only a few houses?

The Hon'ble Sir Stuart Hogg said he understood that it was agreed that the word "town" and not the expression "tract of country" should be used in the Bill.

The Hon'ble Mr. Dampier said he did not understand that the discussion in Select Committee was as to the substitution of the word "town" for the expression "tract of country."

The HON'BLE SIR STUART HOGG said the Bill as it now stood was extremely indefinite. Every officer who had mofussil experience knew that injustice might be done at present by including a number of outlying villages in a municipality. He felt strongly in this matter, because he feared that in some cases injustice was sometimes done by levying high taxation from a large number of villages for whose benefit but little was ever expended. The provisions of the Bill appeared not to meet the objections he had urged in Committee, but rather to increase the evils to which he objected. He understood the hon'ble member was ready to concede the suggestion which SIR STUART HOGG had made in Committee, and on that understanding he on his part had proposed to extend the limit of a quarter of a mile to one mile.

The Hon'ble the Advocate-General observed that the definition would be very good if it stood by itself. But the difficulty was that by this Bill you were enabled to add something to the tract of country which would greatly enlarge its area.

The further consideration of the section was then postponed.

The next important point was that agricultural villages should be excluded from municipal unions:

The same native member moved the substitution in those sections of the words "three-fourths" for "a majority," and the omission of the word "chiefly." He thought it was very desirable that provision should be made in the Bill that unless three-fourths of the population of a place should be engaged in agricultural pursuits, it should not be included in a municipal union. The word "chiefly" limited the sense in which the provision was intended to be understood. Now, it was well known that the people in rural villages in that period of the year in which there was no agricultural work going on, occasionally engaged their time in artizan's work; and having regard to that fact, the Magistrate might come to the conclusion that these were not agricultural villages, because the people sometimes engaged themselves in other occupations and such villages, which properly speaking were agricultural villages, might be included in municipal unions.

Then, with regard to Section 13 he would move the insertion of the following words at the end of the first paragraph: "Provided that no such place shall be so united which is separated by a navigable channel from the limits of a municipality." Cases had been brought to notice in which villages, or places separated by a river, had been included in a municipal union. If two places separated by a navigable channel were fit to receive the benefits of municipal government he thought they ought to be treated separately and a separate municipal organization ought to be provided for each.

The Hon'ble Mr. Bell did not think the hon'ble member had shown any sufficient reason for the amendments he proposed, and he should therefore vote against them.

The Hon'ble the Advocate-General observed that the existing law was a kind of rough enactment as we were now amending and consolidating the law, we must be more precise in our legislation.

The mover of the amendment in reply to what had fallen from the hon'ble member opposite (Mr. Bell), had only to say that the admissions made in the Council that day sufficiently justified the amendments he had proposed. It was admitted that the municipal law had worked most unjustly, and it was therefore both necessary and meet to relieve the agricultural population of the burden of municipal taxation particularly when their wants could be sufficiently met by a few simple sanitary measures, which could, he thought, be provided for from the funds raised under the Chowkeedaree Act. All officers acquainted with the practical administration of municipal matters in mofussil towns and villages were well aware that great complaints prevailed among the people of the agricultural villages on this subject; and that, he thought, was a sufficient reason that the numerical limit as to classes of population to be brought under municipal regulations should be extended, and not kept as it stood in the existing law.

The motion to substitute "three-fourths" for "a majority" was then agreed to.

The motion about the navigable channel was then put and negatived."

We will next draw attention to the appropriation of the municipal funds to missionary schools:

"The native member alluded to above moved the insertion of the words "not intended for the propagation of any religion" after the word "schools" in line 2 of clause 4. He said the object of his amendment was to confine the education grant to the support of such schools as would be maintained by the rate-payers themselves. It was well known to this Council that the municipal taxes were contributed by Hindus and Mahomedans. Now there were philanthropic gentlemen who kept schools, and whose object was the propagation of Christianity; and while we ought to be grateful for their educational labours, he thought the rate-payers ought not to be made to pay for the support of schools whose primary object was the subversion of their own religion. One or two cases had lately occurred in the Suburban Municipality to which he would call the attention of the Council. A number of Hindu gentlemen had founded an English school in Bhowanipore for the benefit of the youths of that place, and a grant-in-aid was given by the local municipality for the support of the institution. But owing to certain influences at work that grant was stopped, because the school was in competition with a Christian institution in the neighbourhood. This had been mentioned to him as an illustration of the way in which missionary influence worked in the appropriation of the municipal grant to the detriment of the indigenous institutions of the country. It was not his object to discuss the educational policy of the State; but as the object of a municipal fund was to promote local purposes, and to assist local undertakings, he submitted that it could not be consistent with justice or sound policy to divert any portion of the municipal funds of mofussil towns to the support of institutions for the propagation of the Christian religion, and indirectly for the subversion of the religions of those who contributed the money.

The HON'BLE MR. DAMPIER said he did not think the words proposed should appear in the Bill. No municipal body need contribute their funds to any denominational school.

The HON'BLE BABOO JUGGADANUND MOOKERJEE said he had personal knowledge of the fact referred to by the hon'ble mover of the amendment.

The HON'BLE SIR STUART HOGG observed that the objection seemed reasonable, and unless the hon'ble mover of the Bill would suggest some other words in lieu of the words proposed, he would support the amendment.

The HON'BLE MR. BELL said he thought it was not right to limit discretion of the Commissioners. For himself, he was totally opposed to contributions being made for the maintenance of schools of any class. He thought that no mofussil municipality had sufficient funds to provide proper conservancy arrangements and it was most unreasonable to call upon or allow Municipal Commissioners to vote municipal funds away for educational purposes which ought primarily to be devoted to conservancy arrangements. If it was considered necessary to devote funds locally raised to the support of schools, he thought there ought to be a separate educational cess; but if funds were to be given to schools at all, he thought that the Commissioners should have full power to make grants to any schools they pleased.

The HON'BLE MR. DAMPIER would ask the Council to bear in mind the history of the question. Sir George Campbell's Bill had made it compulsory on municipalities to contribute funds towards the furtherance of primary education, and that was one of the grounds on which the Governor-General withheld his assent; but the principle of empowering municipalities to contribute towards education, if they chose to do so met with approval.

The mover of the amendment wished to point out in reply to the observation made by the hon'ble mover of the Bill, that the Municipal Commissioners had no power to distribute the educational grant. The distribution was made by the District School Committee, and it was the District School Committee who had appropriated the grant in the way he had mentioned. But whether the distributions were made by the School Committee, or the Commissioners, it came to the same thing. If the Magistrate was to be the guiding spirit of the municipality for many years to come, as was held by the hon'ble mover of the Bill, it entirely depended upon his sympathies whether the grant should be given to this or that institution. He had been told that the case to which he had referred had given rise to considerable discontent among the rate-payers of the Suburban Municipality. If such flagrant cases could arise in the vicinity of Calcutta, there was nothing to prevent similar proceedings in other places, and in order to guard against such cases, he thought a limitation should be prescribed as to the character of the schools to the maintenance of which municipal funds might be applied.

The HON'BLE THE ADVOCATE GENERAL pointed out that native boys were admitted to these schools, and therefore the discretion of the Commissioners should not be limited as to the class of schools for the support of which they might devote municipal funds. He knew a number of persons who had been educated in Roman Catholic schools who had not changed their religion.

HIS HONOR THE PRESIDENT said there was no doubt that the hon'ble mover of the Bill was quite correct in reference to what the Governor-General had stated in reference to voluntary contributions by municipalities for the support of education. His Excellency said:—

"It might also, in His Excelleney's opinion, be desirable to amend the present law so as to enable municipalities under Acts III of 1864 and VI of 1868 voluntarily to contribute in aid of education within their districts."

HIS HONOR thought there would be great objection to the amendment as proposed by the hon'ble member. It was impossible to go into the question whether certain schools were intended to propagate religion; it was impossible to say whether they were or were not so intended.

The Council then divided:—

Ayes 6	*Noes* 6.
The Hon'ble Nawab Ashgur Ali	The Hon'ble Moulvie Meer Mahomed Ali.
,, Baboo Kristodas Pal.	,, Mr. Brookes.
,, Baboo Ramshanker Sen.	,, Mr. Bell.
,, Baboo Juggadnund Mookerjee.	,, Mr. Dampier.
,, Mr. Reynolds.	,, The Advocate-General.
,, Stuart Hogg.	

His Honor the President.

The numbers being equal, the President gave his casting vote with the Noes.

So the motion was negatived.

So taxes paid by Hindus and Mahomedans may be appropriated to schools intended for the conversion of their children!

We next come to the provision authorizing the levy of tolls on roads:

The Native Member moved the omission of the words "and roads." There was another part in another chapter of the Bill which was devoted to this subject; but he thought the principle of the tax might be discussed in connection with the clause now before them, and he therefore thought it proper to propose the amendment which he now moved. When this Bill was introduced, he took the opportunity to state that the levy of tolls on roads was open to great objection, and several hon'ble members, he believed, were of the same opinion. It was a most inconvenient and oppressive mode of taxation led to great abuses, and was a source of constant irritation. He did not know what was the financial yield of this impost in the several municipalities which had recourse to it, but he believed it could not be large. At any rate, the hon'ble mover of the Bill was probably in a position to enlighten us on that point; but he might observe that wherever tolls were levied on roads great complaints were made by the people. They did not object to pay toll on ferries; but road tolls were a fertile source of annoyance, harassment, and irritation. He might remind the Council that not many years ago, when the question of a road cess was under discussion, Mr. Leonard the then Public Works Secretary, who, it might be presumed, represented the views of the Government of the day, wrote a very exhaustive note on the subject, and pointed out the objections which existed to the system of levying tolls on roads. One of the grounds put forward in support of the road cess was, that tolls on roads could then be done away with. So for the sake of consistency, he submitted that road tolls in municipalities ought to be abolished, even if they were productive financially. On these grounds he proposed the amendment which he had moved.

The Hon'ble Babu Jaggadanund Mookerjee supported the hon'ble speaker.

The Hon'ble Mr. Dampier would ask the Council to postpone the consideration of the amendment until he had time to learn what the practical effect of giving up tolls on roads would be. He had already said, when introducing this Bill, that this tax was admitted to be harassing and vexatious; still it was unfortunately necessary to do many things which were more or less harassing to obtain money when it was required.

The Hon'ble Mr. Bell said he had only one observation to make with reference to what had fallen from the hon'ble mover of the Bill, and that was that if it was impossible to do away with tolls on roads which already existed in municipalities, it might be provided that no such tolls should be levied hereafter. That would have the effect of merely sanctioning existing tolls. He believed that no tolls were now levied on Government roads, and that the principle of having these toll-bars was generally condemned.

His Honor the President said tolls on roads were now existing, and he thought the Government ought not to give up existing imposts without further inquiry as to what the effect would be; so, if the Council would agree, he should be glad to postpone the consideration of the amendment until the hon'ble mover of the Bill had an opportunity of considering its effect.

The further consideration of the section was then postponed.

A motion was made to limit the Police expenditure of second class mofussil towns to one-fourth of their total income. We reproduce the official report of the debate:

The Native Member moved the substitution of the following for the last two paragraphs of the section:—

"Provided that the expense so to be borne by any municipality shall not exceed one-fourth the annual income of such municipality."

He believed that the Council was well aware that the police charges absorbed the greater portion of the income of mofussil municipalities; particularly of second-class municipalities. He held in his hand a statement which showed that in 1873-74 there were 25 first-class municipalities in Bengal, yielding a total annual income of Rs 10,84,620. He found that the municipalities of the Suburbs of Calcutta and Howrah yielded Rs. 4,66,249, and the remaining twenty three first-class municipalities Rs. 6,18,371. Then it appeared that the police charges of these twenty-three municipalities came to Rs. 1,73,718, and the average income left for other purposes of these municipalities was Rs 19,332 per annum, or Rs. 1,611 per month. Thus, as regards first-class municipalities, the contribution on account of police charges came to nearly one-fourth of the aggregate income.

Then, with regard to second-class municipalities, he found that in 1873-74 there were 92; and the average income left to them after payment of police charges was Rs. 3,071 per annum, or about Rs. 250 per month. The total annual income of these second-class municipalities was Rs. 4,90,554; the police charges amounted to Rs. 2,07,920; and the balance, after paying for police, was Rs. 2,82,534. Divide this balance between 92 municipalities, and you would find that the average income was, as he had stated, Rs. 3,071 per annum, or Rs. 250 monthly. Now, with those stubborn facts before the Council, he asked whether mofussil municipalities were in a position to carry out the works and purposes which were being prescribed to them, and whether it was not incumbent on the Government to consider as to how far the police charges could be reduced or supplemented from other funds, and how a sufficient balance could be left of the municipal fund to meet the ordinary requirements of these towns. He need hardly remind the Council that the general revenues ought to be appropriated, to a certain extent, towards the support of the police in mofussil towns. The object of the abkaree revenue was primarily the maintenance of the police. One of the objects of the stamp revenue was also the same. And as in the capital towns the Government contributed one-fourth of the police charges, he did not think it was fair that the cost of the municipal police in the mofussil should be met entirely out of the municipal taxes. If these municipalities were rich, or sufficiently well-to-do, and could afford to contribute towards the entire maintenance of the police without neglecting the legitimate requirements of the tax payers, he would not object. But it appeared from the figures which he had read, and which were compiled from official records, that after paying police charges, second-class municipalities had not much left to provide for the ordinary requirements of the towns. In fact, out of Rs. 250, which was the balance left, a considerable sum went towards the maintenance of municipal establishments; and the vexatious machinery of municipal taxation seemed to be intended to raise money chiefly for the police and the establishments. When such was the case, it was worthy the consideration of the Council whether a limit should not be put to the liability of second-class towns for the maintenance of the police.

The Hon'ble Mr. Dampier said this Bill was introduced on the principle of not increasing municipal taxation, and he thought it must also be considered that it was not introduced with the intention of making any radical difference in the application of the municipal funds.

Under the existing law, the amount to be applied for police purposes was not to exceed a certain maximum of taxation. An amendment was now proposed to alter it, which would have the effect of throwing on the Government a very increased expenditure on account of police. The question was a new one, and he could not accept the amendment without consultation with the head of the Government.

The Hon'ble Mr. Bell said there appeared to him to be some slight misapprehension with regard to the existing law. Present municipalities fell under two classes; those which were constituted under Act III of 1864, the District Municipal Improvement Act, and those which came under Act VI of 1868 the District Towns Act. The far greater number of municipalities to which the hon'ble member referred came under Act VI of 1868.

The mover of the amendment said the statement from which he had given the figures helped him to an answer to the observations which the hon'ble member had just made. He found that the places now under Act XX of 1856 numbered 69, and those under Act VI. of 868 numbered 92. It might be that some of the towns under the operation of Act VI of 1868 were formerly under operation of Act XX of 1856; but they might have developed since, and have therefore been advanced in the scale of municipal organization. But there existed that distinction which the hon'ble member had pointed out. Where Act XX of 1856 prevailed, there the taxes raised were applied to the maintenance of the police. As regards Act VI of 1868, the number of towns under it, as already mentioned, was 92; and the object of the introduction of that Act into those towns was not simply to provide for the maintenance of the police, but to enable the inhabitants to enjoy those advantages which it was the object of municipal arrangements to confer upon them. With an average income of only Rs. 250 per month, after paying for police, it was idle to expect that second class municipalities would be able to do much.

He entirely concurred with the hon'ble mover of the Bill that this was a very important question, and that action could not be taken by the Council without the concurrence of the Government; and as the hon'able member proposed to postpone the consideration of the question, Baboo Kristodas Pal readily accepted the suggestion.

His Honor the President said he must explain to the Council that there would be the greatest difficulty in the Government accepting an amendment of this kind, for this reason, amongst others, that if the police in these towns was to be maintained at all, it must be from municipal funds; for there were absolutely no other funds.

He could not hold out any hope of the Government being able to accede to the amendment of the hon'ble member, much as His Honor might desire to do so if possible. The hon'ble member spoke of stubborn facts; but His Honor ventured to say that there were no facts so stubborn as financial facts. And as to a reduction of the cost of the police, it was a question of the security of life and property, of which the executive authorities were the best judges.

The Hon'ble Mr. Dampier referred to the provision in the Section under discussion. Provided that the expense so to be borne by any municipality in which the tax on persons is in force shall not exceed, for a first-class municipality, the average rate of one rupee and eight annas in the year, and for a second-class municipality the average rate of one rupee and four annas in the year for each holding in respect of the occupation of which the tax is imposed."

It would be seen, therefore, that in the case of second-class municipalities the Bill did actually reduce the maximum which had so long existed by four annas a head.

There were also may other important matters, deserving of attention, but for which we have no space. If our countrymen in the Mofussil wish to make themselves heard regarding this Bill, they must strike while the iron is hot.

[COMMUNICATED.]

THE RENT QUESTION.

V.

PRINCIPLES OF ASSESSMENT.—*(Continued.)*

The Pargana Nirikh. From a produce-payment such as we described in our last article, the step seems

to be quite natural and very easy to a commutation of the same into money. We have two notable instances of this from two places, almost a quarter of the globe asunder. Reference has already been made to one of these, viz., the commutation made by Akber of the produce-rates fixed by him into payments in "ready money." This as will be shown afterwards was based upon price-currents collected by the then reigning Government during a series of years. The principle of commutation, however, was in all likelihood destroyed by Akber himself when he adopted what was called, the "Ten years' settlement", which by the way, should not be confounded with its namesake carried out by Lord Cornwallis in Bengal. After the change alluded to, the system of Akber must have become one of purely money-rates, that is to say independent of produce-rent and the commutation prices of the same.

The other instance comes from England, being no other than the commutation of tithe payments into money; in this case we believe the commutation prices are still regularly published in the *London Gazette*. But we are not sufficiently acquainted with its details to institute a proper comparison with the rent system of this country.

Apart from the observed facts alluded to above, the chronological order of succession with respect to the Bhag and gula systems and the Pargana nirik may be presumed in the following way.

We imagine first of all a commutation of the produce rates, and then suppose that from some break in the system, the commuted money payments are continued without reference to the actual market prices. This would give us rates of money-rent calculated upon every Biga of land for particular kinds of produce, over entire districts, for which the same commutation rates were originally fixed. We next imagine another change: one in the staples grown on the same fields: wheat is sown instead of oil seeds, pulses instead of rice and so on. It is quite possible that in such a case especially in a country like this, the rates for the lands growing a certain kind of produce would stick to them, although other kinds of produce came to be subsequently raised on them.

Let us next take into account another fact of a [illegible]able kind. We suppose that with the [illegible] of population, cultivation is extended into [illegible]ously lying waste. This would upset [illegible] system of rates in two ways, 1stly by introducing new rates for the lands newly cultivated, 2nd[illegible] modifications in the old rates consequent upon [illegible] introduction of these new rates.

The result of all these changes would be a system [illegible] in all respects identical with the Pargana [illegible]. For we do not think that the word Pargana here means the local divisions of the country which bear each a distinct geographical name. We would construe it simply as a cluster of villages over which uniform rent-rates prevailed. In support of our construction of the word, we can adduce besides its natural probability, the fact that we have heard the word used by the commonest people in this indefinite and un-geographical sense and we have also heard them use the expressive Pargana rates as synonymous with *gram dastur*, *gram har* (Village rates).

Be this as it may, logically, the Pargana rates are only a short step in advance of the Gula rates, its requisites being (1) the standard pole, (2) measurement of lands (3) classification of soils and (4) the only new or modified element—a graduated scale of money rates.

The adjustment of the money-rates with the gula rates by means of a scale of commutation-prices periodically fixed, being stopped or some-how absent, the money rates become subject to a disturbance, which is not likely to be perceived at first; we mean the fluctuations in the value of money. Under a system of money rents men find in the course of time that the zemindar or the ryot, just as the case may be, fails to make both ends meet from the same property, though he could very well do so in former years. But what is of greater consequence they see also that when one of them prospers the other is straitened in his circumstances. When, however, the ryots suffers, he simply curses his fate, for he cannot easily couple his growing poverty with the increasing prosperity of the zemindar, which is regarded as a normal circumstance. The zemindar, however, cannot so quietly look on the converse case but begins to desire an increase of rent in some shape or other. However in either case a fresh adjustment becomes really necessary, but from the very nature of the difficulties it is always delayed more or less.

4. *Otbundi assessment.* Let us first study the consequences of the delay referred to above, when it works to the detriment of the cultivator. The Pargana rate, as we have seen, requires a measurement and classification of the lands. But as it is impossible in practice to carry out these with the desirable mathematical accuracy, the hardship of low prices presses first of all upon those lands and holdings which in these respects are at a disadvantage in comparison to the rest. Thus a piece of land which is classed for a 2-Rupee rent though fit for only 1-12 or 1-8 will sooner cause a loss to the cultivator than another piece, which does not happen to labor under such or so great a disadvantage. Again, if the recorded area of the holding A happens to be 21 cottahs for every Biga and that of the holding B is exactly 20 cottahs or if A happens to contain the full recorded area while B contains only 19 cottahs per Biga, a fall in the prices will tell sooner upon B than upon A.

The proper course under such a circumstance would be to make a fresh measurement and valuation of the lands. But this is hardly if ever done, with a view to grant a general remission to the ryots. For, the people cannot perceive that the difficulty is owing to inaccuracies in the measurement and classification; besides the pressure falling gradually and commencing only with a small section of the community of the ryots, the demand for an abatement cannot be made and if coming from one or two individual sufferers is not likely to be attended to.

However, the consequence is that the particular holdings fall vacant, the ryots either giving them up or absconding from the estate, to avoid the payment of constantly accumulating arrears. Applications for tenancy of the vacant holdings will naturally be kept back especially from the tenants of the same village, who must be acquainted with the circumstances of the lands. This leads to several events;—

In the first place the zemindar may grant a remission for the particular holdings in order to make them acceptable to the tenant. The remission is called *Rasad*. It may be for a limited period, in which case it is generally granted at a progressively diminishing rate, the rent reaching after the prescribed period, the full Parganah or prevailing rate which in such cases is called the *Pur dustoor* or full customary rate. We mention this because we noticed some years back a somewhat serious misconception in a judgment * given by the Privy Council regarding a *Rasadi* tenure somewhat allied to the one under notice. The full customary rate was there construed to mean a fixed unenhanceable rate, a construction, which the name *Pur dustoor* or full customary rate, in its ordinary acceptation does not by any means admit of. The remission alluded to before, may also be for an indefinite period when it virtually amounts to a permanent abatement from the Pargana rate and is also called *mahakuf*.

In the second place the zemindar may let out the lands *provisionally*, expecting a suitable offer to come in course of time. The rent, here, is to all purposes fixed at a competition rate; and the arrangement is always understood to be a temporary one. It is the same that we have noticed under the class ejectable tenures and goes by the name *Otbandi Jama*.

In the third place, the zemindar may seek to procure needy or energetic tenants from elsewhere to settle upon his lands. Such tenants though resident in the village are naturally looked upon as strangers for a considerable period of time and cannot rank with the other khoodkasht ryots.

In the fourth place the zemindars may procure *Pykasht* or non resident cultivators to accept the vacant holdings. Pykasht tenants have no houses nor cattle in the village, and the zemindar has to take good care that he pays off his dues before taking away the produce of the fields. Hence the zemindar has less confidence upon *Pykasht* than upon *Khoodkasht* tenants; this makes their tenure more uncertain and therefore liable to be classed as ejectable. When however a Pykasht tenant is *sought* for to fill up a vacant tenure, his rents are naturally fixed at a lower rate than the prevailing one. In course of time even the pykasht tenants attain a sort of uniformity as to rent-rates. And then we come across the anomalous phenomenon of ejectable tenures being held at a low rent, although they are capable of being rack-rented, the truth being that the prevailing rate is nominally higher, but considering the character of the soil and areas of the holdings is equal to or lower than the new rates.

5. *Krofa settlement.* We have now to consider the effects upon the Parganah rate of a *rise* in the prices when the re-adjustment happens to be deferred as in the other case.

In the present instance those ryots who enjoy an advantage in respect of measurement and classification of lands will find it quite possible to sublet their lands at a profit to themselves. Subletting is a time-honored and therefore unexceptionable practice. But when cultivators take to this course, they sublet only upon a limited scale and as a rule, do not allow any right of occupancy or hereditary succession to their sub-tenants, and the rent being also fixed at the highest rate available, the sub-tenures bear all the marks of ejectable tenures. This sort of arrangement goes by the name *Krofa* settlement. The *Krofa* tenant may be either khoodkasht or pykasht but, as yet while the rights of middlemen are undefined, they hold an inferior status with regard to cultivators of the tenants-in-chief class.

When in any estate sub-letting happens to increase largely and the zemindar cannot from any reason enhance the rates generally, he sometimes tries to let out any land which he can lay hold of at the *Krofa* rates.

All these tenures viz, the *otbundi* tenures, the *Krofa* tenures and those created by zemindars at *Krofa* rates of rent go by the general name *Ticca* tenures.

It will appear from the above that the names *Khoodkasht* and *Pykasht* signifying respectively resident and non-resident, cannot be used to denote any peculiar *right*. The Pykasht tenants are generally ejectable, but there is no uniform rule as to their rent being above or below the Pargana rate. 2*ndly*, it will appear that the ejectable tenures both *otbundi* and *krofa* grow up only in consequence of a delay occurring in the adjustment of the Pargana rate. 3*rdly*, that the Pargana rate is *the* principle of assessment which governs the land-tenures of this country, making it useless to exchange any documents for showing the rate payable by a ryot, and 4*thly*, that from the very nature of the Pergana rate, the tenures held at such rate become heritable. The ejectable tenures mentioned above and the competition rates prevailing with regard to them serving only to supplement the defects of the Pargana rate.

Whether the circumstances above disclosed serve to confer upon the tenants any *rights* in the European and legal sense of the word,—for the Hindoos are conversant more with its logical correlative *duties*—and whether such right will be held to depend upon the *status* of tenants instead of *contracts* made between the zemindar and individual ryots—we leave to jurists and lawyers to discuss.

* Soorasunderi Debi *vs.* Gholamali dated 24th January 1873. *Englishman* 1st March 1873.

LATEST NEWS AND NOTES.

JUST as we were going to press we received the melancholy intelligence of the death of Babu Heralal Seal, our Duke of Northumberland. For the last three years he had been suffering from complicated diseases, which had baffled the skill of the best European physicians of the city, but from which he recovered under the treatment of a native physician of Moorshedabad. He had however a relapse some weeks back, but little did we expect that it would end fatally and so suddenly. On Saturday noon he breathed his last. His death has cast a deep gloom over Native Society. Large-hearted, frank, bold and independent, Babu Heralal was superior to his class in the good qualities he possessed. He had excellent common sense, a shrewd mind, and a cheerful disposition, and whether in private or in public he never minced matters. In these respects he resembled much his eminent father. Possessed of enormous wealth he knew how to use it for the benefit of Society. He was a friend to the needy, and there was one good trait in him that in assisting fallen greatness, which he often did, he never let his left hand know what his right hand did. A generous patron, a warm friend, and a hilarious and hearty man, his loss cannot be easily replaced in Native Society.

THE AGITATION against the Calcutta Municipal Bill has not been resultless. Sir Richard Temple has gracefully retreated from the position he had assumed. The controlling sections have been considerably modified; all other matters except the conservancy are left to the operation of the law; while in respect of conservancy the Government has taken the power of control in a very mitigated form. We only wish that the Government had conceded the other points about the appointment of the Chairman and the separation of the functions of the Chairman and Commissioner of Police, which are now united in one person. On these two points there is a consensus of opinion among both Europeans and Natives. A motion on this subject was made at last Saturday's sitting of the Council, but it was negatived.

A FRESH Census of Calcutta will be taken on the night of the 6th proximo under the superin

tendence of Mr. Beverley. We hope this opportunity will be taken for a complete record of the population of the bustees separately. Our idea upon this subject is this. Let the bustees in each street be numbered consecutively, and let the population of each be registered in a separate book. Let the population of these bustees be counted annually, and let the number of withdrawals and admissions be noted. Then let the death-registrars at the burning and burial grounds be instructed to note in their returns the deaths reported from each bustee during the year. A comparison of these population and death returns annually will give the rate of mortality in the several bustees, and enable the Health-officer to correctly compute the death-rate in these localities compared with the same in other parts of the town.

THE RUMOUR of a new loan to be opened by the Secretary of State has had a depressing effect upon the money market. The Government securities have gone down fast; the following are the latest quotations:

GOVERNMENT DEBENTURE LOANS FOR 1867.

5	Per Cent. for 10 years (1877)	...	Rs.	101	8 *a*	to 102	0
5	„ for 15 years (1882)	...	„	106	0 *a*	to 106	8

GOVERNMENT LOANS.

				Per 100 *Rs.*			
4	Per Cent.	...	Rs.	99	14 *a*	100	4
4½	„ of 1870	(1885)	„	101	0 *a*	101	8
4½	„ of 1871	(1884)	„	100	12 *a*	101	0
4½	„ of 1872	(1879)	„	100	2 *a*	100	6
5½	„ of 1859-60	(1879)	„	102	6 *a*	102	10

The tendency is still downward.

WE NOTICED last week the rules issued by Government for the appointment of Putwaris in Orissa. These rules will have effect from the date of re-settlement of the land revenue. The Government of Bengal has issued the following instructions to the Board of Revenue on the subject:

"No further orders are required at present in regard to Orissa, as it has been ascertained that to re-establish Patwaris now in Orissa would involve Government in an expenditure, which would probably amount to not less than 85,000 Rs. a year, and it has consequently been determined in accordance with the recommendations of the Commissioner and the Board, to take no steps for a general appointment of Putwaries until the re-settlement of the province, when the necessary provision will be made in the settlement proceedings."

We cannot understand why the rules have been issued now, when the re-settlement of the land revenue will take place twenty years hence. On the other hand the Collector of Balasore is pressing the zemindars of his district to execute engagements for the employment of Putwaris and the supply of the returns prescribed. This is illegal and arbitrary. We hope the Government will put a stop to his high-handed proceedings.

IT IS to be regretted that the constitution of the Calcutta University does not give the local Government a direct interest in its operations. The future of the graduates of Bengal depends upon the personal sympathies of the head of the local Government, but the Lieutenant Governor and the graduates are officially strangers. Sir Richard Temple has however in a generous manner sought to bridge over the gulf. Annually as the convocation takes place he invites the graduates of the year to an Evening Party at Belvedere, and makes personal acquaintance with them. On Wednesday last His Honor invited the graduates of this year, and shewed them much attention. We believe Sir Richard has their welfare at heart, and we hope he will mark his generous interest by substantial encouragement. The graduates have a preferential claim to the subordinate executive service.

THERE WAS a very interesting debate at the last sitting of the Governor General's Council on the Criminal Tribes' Act. The Hon'ble Raja Narendrakrishna moved an amendment to the effect that the zemindars should be relieved of the duty of giving information; Sir Richard Temple, the Hon'ble Mr. Bayley, and the Hon'ble Mr. F. R. Cockerell opposed the motion; but an amendment of the Hon'ble Mr. Inglis relieving absentee zemindars was at last carried. We, however, fail to understand why one section of the community should be required to do a public duty, when the matter is one in which all classes of the public are equally interested. The zemindars have been shorn of all powers, and it is not fair that they should be burthened with obligations, which they are not in a position to discharge.

A TRULY good man has passed away. Bishop Milman is dead! In the pursuit of his sacred work he had reached the frontier station of Rawal Pindi, where he caught fever and dysentry, and breathed his last on Wednesday at 10 A. M. As he was the head of the Christian Church in India so he was its ornament. A man of profound learning, devoted piety, overflowing goodness, most generous and wide sympathies and a most genial temper and humour he was the model of a Christian gentleman. Although from his position he was a power militant against the established religions of the country, his personal qualities made him an object of veneration with the Hindus and Mahomedans as he was with the Christians. His lamented death leaves a void, which it will be difficult to fill up. We subscribe to every word of the Resolution of the Government of India *in memorium*, which we give below:

Notification. Home Department, Ecclesiastical, *Fort William 6th March*.—The Governor-General in Council has received with the deepest regret the intelligence of the death at Rawalpindi in the Punjab, on the morning of the 15th instant, of the Right Reverend Robert Milman, D.D. Lord Bishop of Calcutta.

The Governor-General in Council desires to place on record the sense which he entertains of the late Bishop Milman's indefatigable energy in the discharge of the high functions of his office—of his charity and munificence—of his zeal in promoting all good works—especially the education of the poorer classes of Europeans in India—and of his broad and benevolent sympathy with all classes of the community. The Bishop has devoted his health and strength to the conscientious fulfilment of his arduous duties in ministering to the spiritual and temporal welfare of his diocese; and he has now died in the midst of his labours, doubtless in consequence of them.

The Governor-General in Council is sure that Bishop Milman's untimely death will be felt as a personal loss and that his memory will be affectionately cherished by Her Majesty's subjects in India.

The Flag of Fort William will be hoisted half-mast high to-day, which is the day of the funeral.

By Command of the Governor-General in Council.
Arthur Howell, Offg. Secy. to the Govt. of India.

H. R. H. THE PRINCE OF WALES has taken leave of India in the following hearty words, which he has addressed to His Excellency the Viceroy:

H. M. S. "SERAPIS."
Bombay, the 13th March 1876.

MY DEAR LORD NORTHBROOK,

I cannot leave India without expressing to you, as the Queen's Representative of this vast Empire, the sincere pleasure and the deep interest with which I have visited this great and wonderful country.

As you are aware, it has been my hope and intention for some years past to see India with a view to become more intimately acquainted with the Queen's subjects in this distant part of Her Empire, and to examine for myself those objects of interest which have always had so great an attraction for travellers.

I may candidly say that my expectations have been more than realized by what I have witnessed so that I return to my native country most deeply impressed with all I have seen and heard. The information I have gained will, I am confident, be of the greatest value to me, and will form a useful foundation for much that I hope hereafter to acquire.

The reception I have met with from the Princes and Chiefs and from the native population at large is most gratifying to me; as the evidence of loyalty thus manifested shows an attachment to the Queen and to the Throne which I trust will be made every year more and more, lasting. It is my earnest hope that the many millions of the Queen's Indian subjects may daily become more convinced of the advantages of British rule and that they may realize more fully that the Sovereign and the Government of England have the interests and well-being of India very sincerely at heart.

I have had frequent opportunities of seeing Native troops of all branches of the Service, and I cannot withhold my opinion that they constitute an Army of which we may feel justly proud. The "march past" at Delhi of so many distinguished officers and of such highly disciplined troops was a most impressive sight, and one which I shall not easily forget.

I wish also to state my high appreciation of the Civil Service; and I feel assured that the manner in which their arduous duties are performed tends greatly to the prosperity and the contentment of all classes of the community.

I cannot conclude without thanking you, and all those in authority, for the facilities which have enabled me to traverse so rapidly so large an extent of country: and I rest assured I shall ever retain a grateful memory of the hospitality tendered by yourself and by others who have so kindly received me.

Believe me, my dear Lord Northbrook,
Yours very sincerely,
ALBERT EDWARD.

A PUBLIC MEETING was held on Thursday last to do honor to Lord Napier of Magdala, the retiring Commander-in-Chief. Sir Richard Temple made a glowing speech describing in fitting and eloquent terms the achievements of Lord Napier as a soldier, his services as an administrator, and his virtues as a member of society. His Lordship, as Sir Richard truly said, has acquired a name and fame of which the English nation may justly feel proud. But the natives of this country have particular reasons to be grateful to his Lordship. He has great faith in the fidelity of the native army, and has always advocated its claims to a just and generous treatment. He has been a warm friend of the native soldier and done much to promote his welfare. As Mr. Alonzo Money truly said, his life has been *sans peur et sans reproche*.

WE ARE glad to learn that Sir Richard Temple has called for the papers from the Commissioner of Police relating to the outrage committed by some men of the Calcutta Police on the Ghosal family of College Square. It was a most scandalous outrage, and calls for the fullest enquiry at the hands of the local Government. There must be something radically wrong at the bottom when the guardians of the public peace break it so wantonly and fearlessly. We do hope that His Honor will give such orders on the subject as will effectually prevent the recurrence of such outrages. Should not the rate-payers of the town, who pay the Police, have some power to call from the Commissioner of Police for reports in such cases of outrage?

WE LEARN from a letter from Gowhatty that the authorities there propose to assess rent-free uncultivated lands held by the Lakhrajdars of that province and that in that view the Deputy Commissioner of Kamroop has served them with perwannahs requiring them to hold their lands only in one block and that after the resurvey which will shortly take place they shall have to pay rent for all uncultivated lands held by them. We further learn that the Chief Commissioner of Assam has recommended the proposed assessment to the Government of India, whose sanction is confidently reckoned upon, and that the notice referred to has been given in anticipation of that sanction. We never had a more apt illustration of the proverb of driving the thin end of the wedge. The assessment referred to is undoubtedly illegal, for there is no law or judicial ruling which countenances it, but the Assam authorities are encouraged to adopt the contemplated measure by the success which has attended the imposition of what our correspondent calls a subscription rent on the cultivated Lakhraj lands. This rent is now recognized by the courts only because it has been paid for a long time without murmur or complaint, but there is no legislative enactment to legalize it and thus invalidate the rent-free tenures. A question about the validity of these tenures after the payment of rent had once been raised and finally disposed of on the report of General Jenkins, who was appointed Special Commissioner and who pronounced in favor of these rent-free tenures. The payment of the small rent therefore is quite voluntary and cannot be enforced by law. The assessment of lands in question for the purpose of taxation will be a great hardship to the holders, who hold their tenures as free gifts from the ancient rajahs for the maintenance of their household iodls. In many cases they have passed hands and the puachasers have paid heavily for them in consideration of their being rent-free. There is moreover a stretch of non-regulation power in ruling that the Lakhraj lands shall be held in one block. It is not contended that the uncultivated lands are wilfully neglected and allowed to lie waste, for the owners have no interest in a proceeding, which subjects them to loss.

THE CALCUTTA GAZETTE contains a resolution of the Government of Bengal on Road Cess valuations during 1874-75. Up to the end of the Road Cess year 1872-73 (*i.e.*, the 30th September 1873), the valuations had been completed in sixteen districts of the Lower Provinces. In the following year the districts of Tipperah and Manbhoom were similarly completed. In the year 1874-75, the districts of Bankoora, Beerbhoom, Mymensingh, and Maldah were completed, as well as the sub division of Madaripore, which is now a part of the Fureedpore district, but which belonged to the district of Backergunge when the valuations in Furreedpore were

originally taken in hand. During the last year eighteen additional districts were brought under the operation of the Act. There are now only five districts to which the Act has not yet been extended, namely, Darjeeling, Cooch Behar, Chittagong Hill Tracts, Sonthal Pergunnahs, and Singbhoom. The circumstances of some of these districts, the Lieutenant Governor remarks, are such as to make the provisions of the Act inapplicable to them. To other districts it is probable that the Act will be extended hereafter. The information given in the Resolution about the working of the Act is very meagre. Thanks to Babu Degumber Mitter's ingenuity the law is self-acting. But we should like to know how the ryots have been paying in, whether they are in arrear and whether they are being oppressed by the zemindars. One fact we may mention—in those districts in which the zemindars had according to law paid the cess of the lakhrajdars they have not been able to collect a pice from them. Will the Government take any steps to relieve them of this burden?

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

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Government Notifications.

Calcutta Gazette.—*March* 15, 1876.

GENERAL.—*The 8th March* 1876.—Mr. Richard Herbert Greaves, Officiating Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, in charge of the Khoorda division of the Pooree district, is vested with the powers of a Collector under Section 6, Act VII (B.C.) of 1868.

The 9th March 1876.—Baboo Mohim Chunder Ghose, Sub-Deputy Collector, Satkhira, in the 24 Pergunnahs, is appointed to act as a Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector in Jessore, during the absence, on leave, of Baboo Annnd Mohun Mozoomdar, or until further orders. Baboo Mohim Chunder Ghose will continue to exercise the powers of a Magistrate of the Third Class.

Baboo Monmotho Coomer Bose is appointed to act as a Sub-Deputy Collector at Satkhira, in the 24-Pergunnahs, during the absence, on duty, of Baboo Mohim Chunder Ghose, or until further orders.

The 10th March 1876.—In supersession of the orders of the 25th ultimo, Mr. Charles Arthur Kelly, M.A., Judge of the Small Cause Courts at Bhagulpore and Monghyr, is allowed leave for six months under Section 15 of the Civil Leave Code, together with subsidiary leave for a period not exceeding thirty days with effect from the 2nd instant.

The 11th March 1876.—Mr. Godfrey John Bective Tuite Dalton, Officiating Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Mozufferpore, is appointed to act as Deputy Commissioner, Cooch Behar, in the Fourth Grade, during the absence, on leave, of Captain T. H. Lewin, or until further orders.

The 13th March 1876.—Mr. E. R. Middleton, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Hooghly, is appointed to have charge of the Serampore division of that district.

Baboo Bunkim Chunder Chatterjee, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, on leave, is posted to the district of Hooghly.

Mr. E. B. Godfrey, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Serampore, is transferred to the Sudder station of the Hooghly district.

Mr. Frederick Barnes Peacock, Officiating Commissioner of the Dacca division, having returned to duty on the 6th instant, the unexpired portion of the leave granted to him in orders of the 30th December 1875 is cancelled.

Baboo Binode Behary Sircar, Sub-Deputy Collector, Beerbhoom, is allowed leave for one month under Section 21, Chapter VI of the Civil Leave Code.

Baboo Gopal Chunder Mookerjee, Sub-Deputy Collector, Serajgunge, is appointed to act as a Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector in the district of Rungpore, during the absence, on leave, of Mr. W. C. Muller, or until further orders.

Mr. Charles Randall Marindin, Assistant Magistrate and Collector, in charge of the Mudhoobunee division of the Durbhangah district, is transferred to the district of Mozufferpore.

Mr. Araton Catchick Mackertich, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Patna Division, is appointed to have charge of the Mudhoobunee division of the Durbhangah district.

The orders of the 6th instant, published in the *Calcutta Gazette* of the 8th idem, transferring Mr. J. Nugent, Assistant Magistrate and Collector, from Seetamarhee to Durbhangah, are cancelled.

The 14th March 1876.—Baboo Doorga Das Chowdry, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, in charge of the Bagirhat division of the Jessore district, is transferred to the district of Durbhunga.

Baboo Ram Churn Bose, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Durbhunga, is appointed to have charge of the Bagirhat division of the Jessore district.

Mr. J. C. Price, Settlement Officer, Midnapore, is appointed to be also a Superintendent of Survey, under Section 4, Act V (B.C.) of 1875, in that district.

The following officers are appointed, under Section 4 of Act V (B.C.) of 1875, to be also Assistant Superintendents of Survey in Midnapore:—

Baboo Rejoy Kissen Bose, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector.

Baboo Koilas Chunder Chatterjee, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector.

Moonshee Wahedullah, Sub-Deputy Collector.

Baboo Ram Bromho Chatterjee, Sub-Deputy Collector.

Mr. J. M. Mendis, Sub-Deputy Collector.

POLICE.—*The 8th March* 1874.—Mr. Sandford James Kilby, Assistant Superintendent of Police, is posted to the Mudhoobunnee division of the Durbhangha district.

The 9th March 1876.—Major Russell Morland Skinner, District Superintendent of Police, Mozufferpore, is allowed subsidiary leave for a period not exceeding thirty days, with effect from the 15th instant, to enable him to appear before the Medical Board at the Presidency, preparatory to proceeding to Europe on medical certificate.

Mr. Alexander Vansittart Knyvett, Assistant Superintendent of Police, Mozufferpore, is appointed to act, until further orders, as District Superintendent of Police of that district.

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নং ৯ চৌরঙ্গী রোড ॥

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	টাকা
বাক্স কাষ্টে নির্ম্মিত পিতলের ৮ চাবি ক্লারিনেট ...	২৫
অতি উৎকৃষ্ট "বুসির" জারমান সিল্ভরের ১৩ চাবি ক্লারিনেট	৯২
বাক্স কাষ্টে নির্ম্মিত ১ চাবি কনসার্ট ফ্লুট	৫
১ এবং ৪ চাবি পিকলো ফ্লুট ... ৩ টাকা হইতে	২০
ফাইফ্ ফ্লুট চাবি বিহিন	৪
৩ ভাল্ভ চলিত করণেট	৪৫
৩ ঐ উত্তম ঐ	৬৫
৩ ঐ অত্যুৎকৃষ্ট ঐ	৯০
৩ গার্ডমডেল ভাল্ভ "বুসর" করণেট... ...	১০০
৩ ভাল্ভ হউফোনিয়ম	১২৫
৩ ঐ বোম্বার্ডন	১৫০
৩ ঐ ট্রম্পেট	৭৫
কষ্টানমত বাস্ড্রম	১০০
পিতল নির্ম্মিত ঐ	১৮০
ঐ সাইড্ড্রম	৬০

বৈটকখান গৃহের উপযোগি।

	টাকা
চলিত বেহালা	২৫
উৎকৃষ্ট ঐ ... ... ৫০ হইতে	১০০
টেনর অথবা কিছু বড় বেহালা ... ৫০ হইতে	১০০
ভায়লন সেলো অথবা বাস অতি উত্তম ৮০ হইতে	২০০
৮ চাবি কনসার্ট ফ্লুট	৫০
ছোট উত্তম হারমনিয়ম ... ... ৯০ হইতে	১৫০
৩ অক্টেভ হারমণি ফ্লুট অথবা বাক্স হারমণিয়া ৬০ হইতে	৮৫
সাড়ে তিন অক্টেভ হারমনি ফ্লুট অথবা বাক্স হারমণিয়ম	৯০
হারমণি ফ্লুটের এসটাণ্ড	১৫
এঙ্গলো জারমান কনসারটীনা ... ৩০ হইতে	৫০
হংলিস ট্রীবল ঐ ... ৫০ ঐ	১৮০
ঐ "বারিটোনের" ঐ	১৮০
ঐ "বাস" ঐ	১৪০
৩ গতের ছোট মিউজিক্যাল বাক্স (বাঙ্গালাগত)...	১৮
৪ গতের ছোট মিউজিক্যাল বাক্স (বাঙ্গালাগত)...	২৫
টানের ফ্লুট ... ... ১৷৷০ হইতে ...	২।০

ক্যালকাটা মিউজিক্যাল এষ্টাব্লিষমেণ্ট।

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January 1st 1876.

To

The Honorable J. R. Bullen Smith, C.S.I.,

Sheriff of Calcutta.

SIR,—We, the undersigned Residents of Calcutta, request that you will be so kind as to call a Public Meeting, to be held on an early date, to be fixed by yourself, in the Town Hall, for the purpose of considering a proposal to elect, by public subscription, a fitting Memorial to His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General Lord Northbrook, who is about to retire soon.

We remain
Your's very faithfully

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